▲ルスカの実妹・ルクレティア

JETS COMICS

拳闘暗黒伝CESTVS セスタス vol.3

WAZARAI SHIZUYA

技来静也

登場人物

セスタス：ローマ帝国の最下層階級の拳奴の集まり、ヴァレンス奴隷闘士養成所に身を置く少年。生き延びるために闘いを余儀なくされる。

ザファル：ヌミディア出身の拳奴。セスタスに拳闘の才能を見いだし、師として拳の技を教え込む。過去にデミトリアスと闘い膝が不自由に。

デミトリアス：ローマ帝国の勇者。別名アッティカの金獅子。過去にザファルと闘い右眼を失っている。徒手格闘兵団（パンクラトス・レギオン）衛帝隊・隊長。

ルスカ：デミトリアスの息子、皇立徒手格闘兵団首席訓練生。ローマの格闘児の異名をとる。

ルクレティア：兄・ルスカを慕う活発な少女。

ロクサーネ：アルカディア出身の徒手格闘兵団衛帝隊・弐等衛士。

ディノデイモス：スパルタ出身。徒手格闘兵団衛帝隊・補佐官。

ドライゼン：アルゴス出身。徒手格闘兵団衛帝隊・副長。

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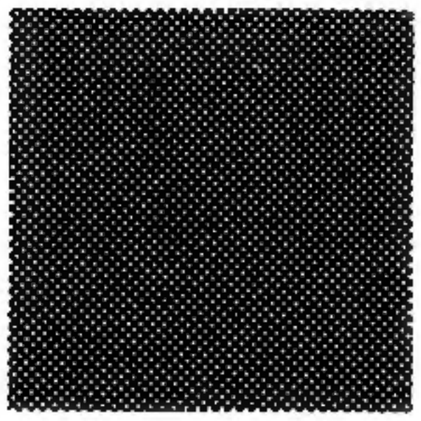
技来静也の好評既刊

拳闘暗黒伝セスタス◆①～⑭巻——
世界帝国となったローマを舞台に、拳奴（けんど）・セスタスの成長を通して自由を勝ち取る大切さを語るボクシング・アクション!!

YOUNG ヤングアニマル ANIMAL
毎月第2・第4金曜日発売

JETS COMICS

YOUNG ANIMAL PRESENTS



HAKUSENSHA

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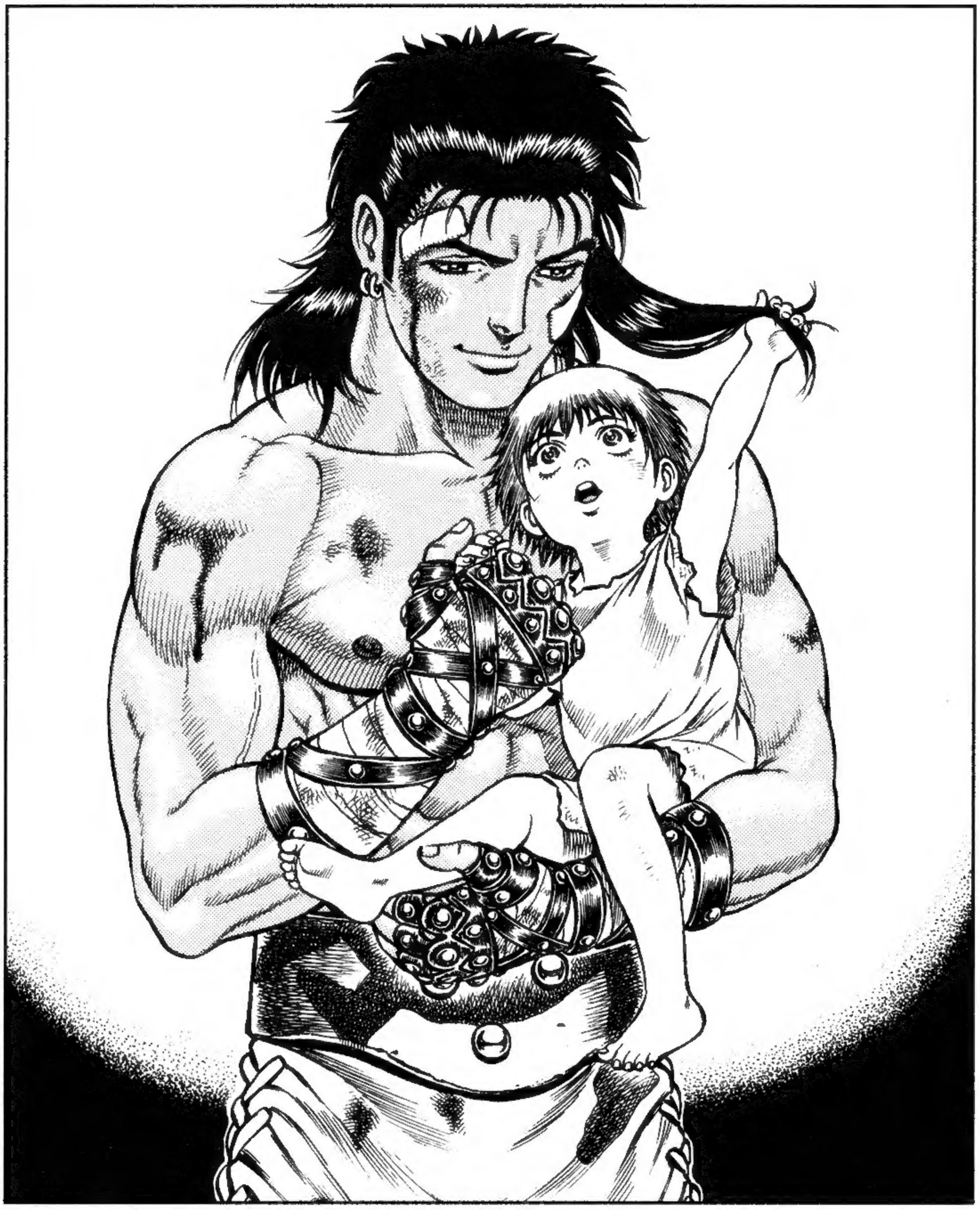
拳闘暗黒伝セスタス③



技来静也

拳闘暗黒伝CESTVS

セストゥス

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JETS COMICS

この作品はフィクションです。実在の人物・
団体・事件などとは、いっさい無関係です。

CHAPTER XVII:
REPATRIATION

THAT ONE COULD TELL A FIST FIGHTER'S STRENGTH IMMEDIATELY BY LOOKING AT THEIR BACK...

SOMEONE ONCE SAID...

WAS SOMETHING WHICH I ALWAYS ADMIRED.

THAT MELANCHONY, YET STURDY BACK...

THE BACK OF ONE WHO REMAINS PREPARED FOR DUTY!

AT ANY TIME READY TO FIGHT.

EVEN NOW THAT BACK REMAINS THE SAME.

ギュッ

ガチャ

MASTER'S FISTS WHICH CAN NO LONGER REACH HIS ENEMIES...

YET IT'S...

TO BE BROKEN A SECOND TIME THEN...

キリ キリ...

IF HIS KNEE WERE...

WHILE HIS FISTS THEMSELVES ARE FINE...

IS SOMEONE I CAN NEVER FORGIVE.

THE MAN WHO HURT MASTER...

A KING OF HAND TO HAND COMBAT, DEMITORIUS.

THE GOLDEN LION OF ATTICA.

RUSKA'S FATHER.

SOMEDAY, BY MY HAND HE WILL DEFINITELY...

WHAT'RE YOU DOING CESTVS?!

ARE YOU CRYING?!

OUR TIME IS PRECIOUS.

CAN'T YOU SQUASH DOWN YOUR EMOTIONS?

AH.

THAT'S IT, RUN!

DON'T THINK ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE NOW...

RIGHT NOW JUST...

FOCUS ON YOUR TRAINING.

NOW, GET RUNNING!

AT ONCE.

ギャア

ギャア

ギャア..

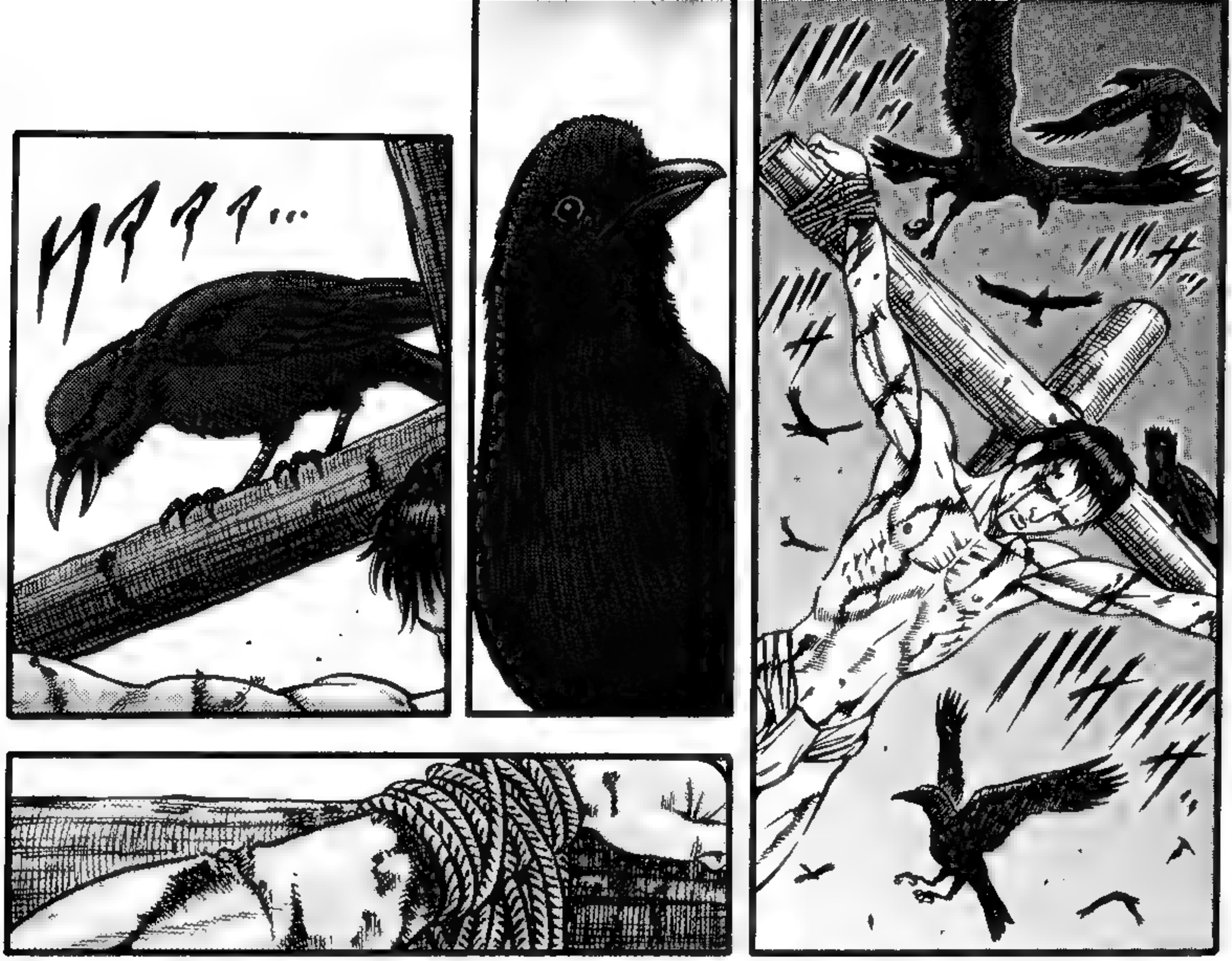
ギャア!!

ギャア!!

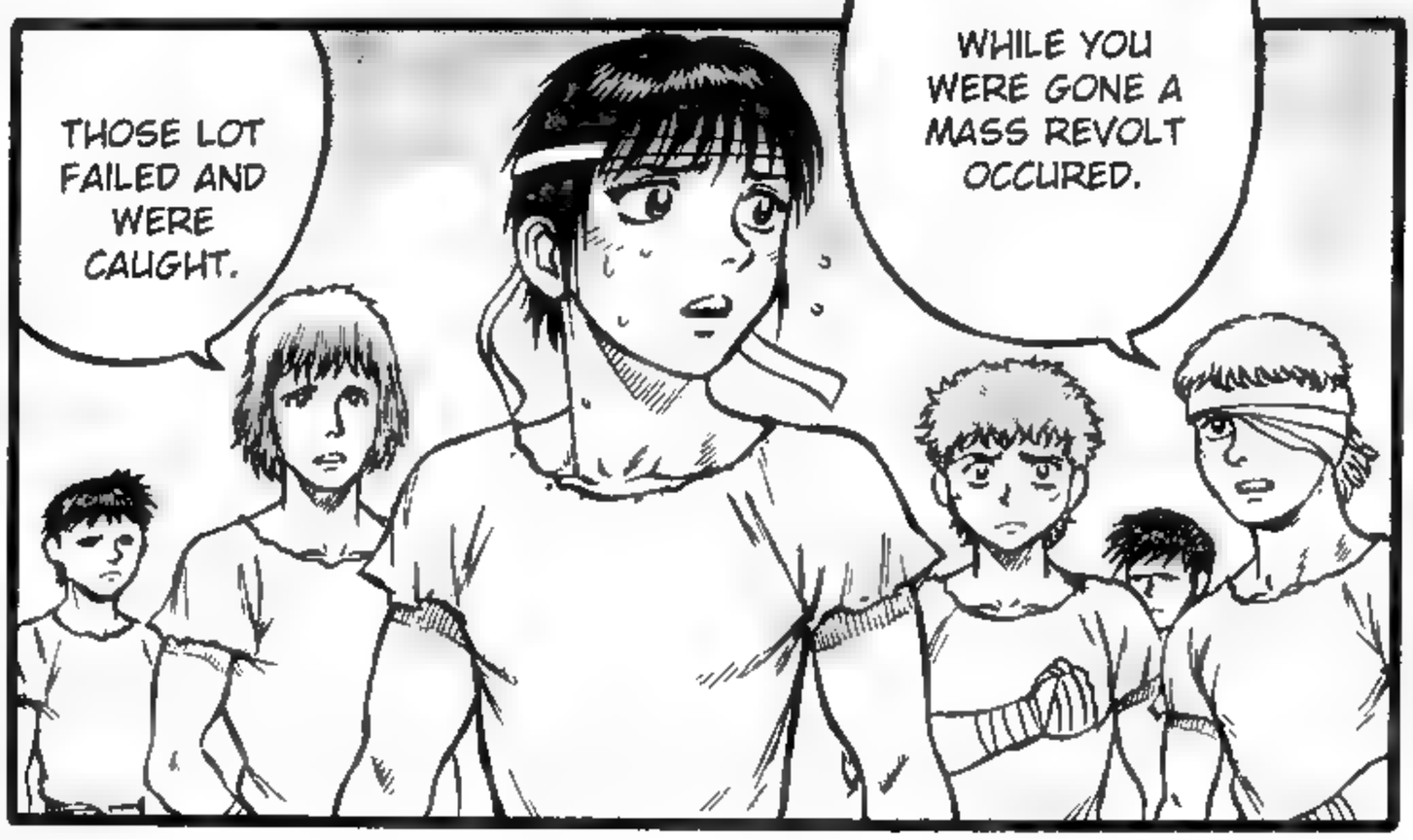
WH... WHAT IS THIS?! THIS...

ヒュウウウ

!


WHAT IS...
THIS...?

IT'S MEANT TO SAY THAT IT COULD HAPPEN TO US TOO.
IN A WORD, IT'S A LESSON.


THOSE LOT FAILED AND WERE CAUGHT.
WHILE YOU WERE GONE A MASS REVOLT OCCURED.

NOT ONE PERSON SHALL MANAGE TO ESCAPE FROM HEREON IN.

YOU WOULD DO WELL TO REMEMBER THIS.

COULD A MAN LIKE THIS REALLY HAVE RED BLOOD FLOWING THROUGH HIM?

"COLD BLOODED" VALENS, HEAD OF THE TRAINING SCHOOL.

YOU SHOULD CAST ASIDE ANY NEFARIOUS THOUGHTS AT ONCE.

YOU LACK ANY RELATIVES, AND EVEN THE ABILITY TO GET FOOD IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD...

NOTWITH-STANDING THE FACT THAT YOU ARE ORPHANS...

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

AS LONG AS THERE'S A DIFFERENCE IN SOCIAL STANDING...

IF THAT IS SO THEN MAKE YOURSELF USEFUL TO ME AND CONTINUE TO WIN.

TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT THAT MAN.

I IMAGINE YOU DON'T WISH TO BECOME LIKE HIM?

JUST WHAT AM I...

EVEN ALLOWED TO DO?

YOU'RE AN IDIOT.

WHO'D PURPOSELY COME BACK TO THIS SORTA PLACE...

HEY...

WH... WHAT DO YOU MEAN...?

HEY, CESTVS...

WHY DID YOU COME BACK HERE?

DON'T LET IT GET TO YOU, CESTVS.

IF IT WERE ME I'D NEVER...

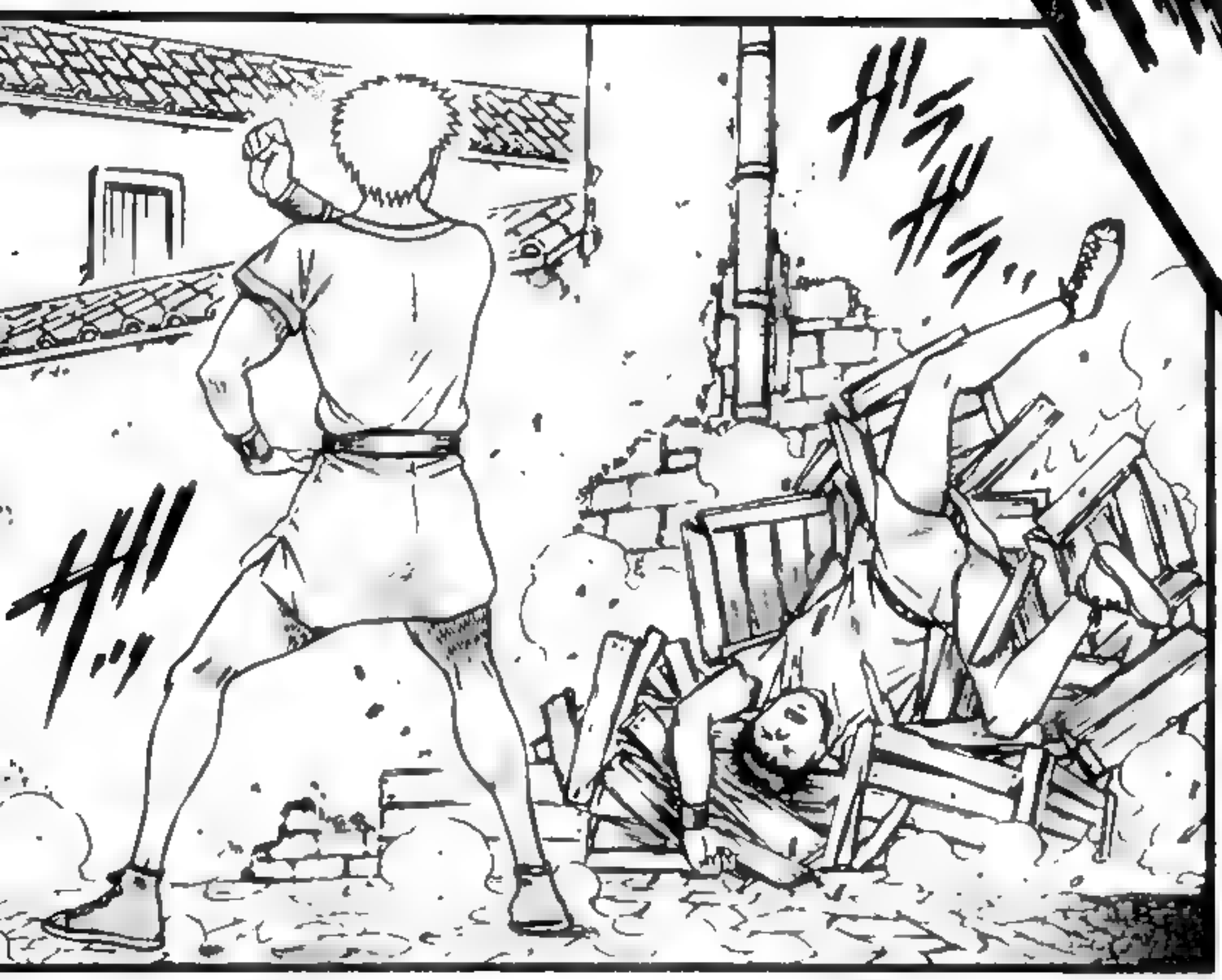
WAS IT A MISTAKE...?

WAS I MISTAKEN...?!

WITHIN THE CITY OF ROME.

AT THE SAME TIME...

ISN'T IT THIS TRAINING SCHOOL ITSELF WHICH IS WRONG...?!



UUH...

FOUR...

I'LL DEAL WITH HIM.

HUFF.

HHH...

HHH...

CRACK

GUARGH...

THREE...

OOH!

!

SWISH.

TWO...

BEHIND YOU!
KUH.

SHI...

IS... IS THIS FOR REAL?!

GERGH....

GERGH....

WE'RE ALL USED TO FIGHTING, YET...

WE WEREN'T A MATCH FOR HIM AT ALL!

SHALL WE CONTINUE?

UH...

UUH.

THUD

ONE...

!

WAAH!

?!

WELL THAT'S FINE THEN, MY DEAR ELDER.

I WON'T BE ABLE TO HOLD BACK.

コキ..

AGAINST AN ENEMY WITH A BLADE...

コキ..

AREN'T YOU STRICTLY PROHIBITED FROM TAKING PART IN PRIVATE FIGHTS, RUSKA?

DO YOU NOT REMEMBER THAT YOU MUST RECIEVE PERMISSION TO USE YOUR SKILLS OUTSIDE OF MATCHES?

WHATEVER THE REASON MAY HAVE BEEN.

WELL...

LET US AT LEAST HEAR WHAT YOU YOURSELF HAVE TO SAY.

I WAS SURROUNDED BY FIVE ELDER BOYS. I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO PROTECT MYSELF.

AMONGST THE FIVE WHO SURROUNDED YOU SEVERAL SUFFERED BROKEN BONES.

ONE SUFFERED A SMASHED NASAL BONE.

WHILE IT SEEMS ANOTHER HAD A SERIOUS TEAR IN A TENDON IN HIS ARM.

IT WAS LEGITIMATE SELF DEFENCE, INSTRUCTORS.

ONE IS STILL UNCONSCIOUS.

HAD I NOT FOUGHT BACK I WOULD HAVE ENDED UP THE SAME WAY.

I CAN DO NOTHING ELSE BUT TRUST YOUR JUDGEMENT.

I'VE SAID ALL THAT I CAN ON THE MATTER.

YOUR OPPONENT WOULDN'T EVEN ADMIT TO OWNING IT.

AND YET...

ISN'T THIS THING JUST A LITTLE TOO WICKED TO BE USED IN A SIMPLE STREET FIGHT...?

THERE'S NO WAY THAT YOU CAN CALL THIS WEAPON A MERE BOY'S PLAYTHING.

HMPH.

STILL, THE BOYS WHO HE TOOK DOWN WERE THE SONS OF IMPORTANT NOBLES.

HE LIKELY ISN'T TO BE LYING IN HIS TESTIMONY.

IT'D SERVE AS A GOOD TREATMENT FOR USELESS BRATS WHO CAN ONLY SPONGE OFF OF THEIR PARENTS!

THEY'RE GARBAGE WHO CAN'T EVEN FIGHT WHEN IN A GROUP! THEY SHOULD BE ABANDONED!

I IMAGINE THEY WANTED TO GET BACK AT THEIR SMARTER UNDERCLASSMAN IN A RATHER COWARDLY WAY.

REMOVE YOUR LUGGAGE FROM THE LODGING HOUSE AT ONCE.

THAT IS ALL.

RUSKA DEMITORIUS.

YOU ARE SENTENCED TO HOUSE ARREST FOR FIVE DAYS.

PANKRATOS LEGION TRAINING SCHOOL

SCHOOL DORMITORY

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I EXPERIENCED THIS.

IT'S FINE...

I'M USED TO BEING LEFT OUT.

HE IS STILL BUT 16 YEARS OF AGE, YET HIS HAND TO HAND COMBAT CAPABILITIES ARE NEARLY COMPLETE...

WHAT AN OMINOUS BOY.

HE TRULY TAKES AFTER HIS FATHER.

WHILE IT'S EMBARASSING TO ADMIT IT, WE'VE REACHED THE POINT WHEREIN WE'RE NO LONGER FIT TO INSTRUCT HIM.

PRINCIPLE DINODEIMOS...

THE TIME WILL SOON COME FOR HIS ENLISTMENT...

THIS CAGE IS FAR TOO SMALL FOR THE SON OF THE LION.

HH!!

HH!!

WELL, IT'S THE YOUNG MASTER.

WOULD YOU PLEASE SEND MY REGARDS TO MOTHER...

IS SHE AROUND AT THE MOMENT?

WELL...

WELCOME BACK, SIRE.

LORD RUSKA.

WHILE IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A PLEASURE, IT'S NOT LIKE I'M A GIRL YOU KNOW.

IF YOU'D CONTACTED US THEN WE WOULD HAVE COME AND MET YOU.

BROTHER!

AREN'T YOU GOING TO COME GREET ME?

AND WHAT ABOUT ME?

GEEZ. WHILE I SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED...

I'M BACK, LUCRETIA.

YOU WERE QUITE SLY COMING HOME SO SUDDENLY.

IS THAT IT?

IT'S NOT A HOLIDAY I'M AFRAID.

I'LL ONLY BE BURDENING YOU FOR FIVE DAYS THOUGH.

MM.

I'M SORRY...

THAT YOU'VE BEEN LEFT TO DEAL WITH EVERYTHING.

IS THAT OKAY?

THOUGH I THINK IT'D BE BEST IF YOU DIDN'T MEET HER YET.

RECENTLY SHE'S BEEN CALMING DOWN SOMEWHAT, LITTLE BY LITTLE.

MOTHER HAS ONLY JUST GOTTEN TO SLEEP.

YOU WERE ALSO EXPELLED FROM SCHOOL.

ヒク ヒク

SO YOU'VE BEEN FIGHTING...

ガク

AAAH, WHAT'S ALL THIS?! IT'S BLOOD ISN'T IT?!

I'VE BEEN EXPOSED.

THE HELL'S WITH HER PERCEPTION.

AM I WRONG?

IF I PUT IT ALL TOGETHER IT MEANS THAT YOU'VE BEEN PUT UNDER HOUSE ARREST!

YES YES.

ふう

SHE'S SIX YEARS YOUNGER THAN ME, BUT ACTS MORE LIKE AN AFFECTIONATE ELDER SISTER.

MY YOUNGER SISTER HAS JUST TURNED 10.

COME ON.

THIS ISN'T A LAUGHING MATTER, HURRY UP AND GET CHANGED.

WHAT'RE YOU STRIPPING OFF HERE FOR?!

NOT LIKE THAT IDIOT!

ゴ!

ゴ!

ゴ!

WHAT'RE YOU GETTING ALL RED FOR?

HAHAHA.

WHAT DO I CARE IF YOU'RE SEEN LIKE THAT AND DUMPED!

LET'S TAKE A BATH LIKE THIS.

IT'S FINE ISN'T IT, I'M INSIDE THE HOUSE.

HM?

EH, WHAT?

VALERIA.

IT'S BEEN A WHILE...

クス

クス

クス

YOU HAVE TO PROPERLY GREET HER.

WE'RE GLAD TO SEE YOU THOUGH.

SO YOU CAME THEN...

HEY...

HURRY UP AND COVER YOUR BUTT...

IT...

WH...

WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU WEARING?

RUSKA...

SHE'S BEEN LEFT TO CARE OF YOUR MOTHER BY HERSELF AFTER ALL.

I WASN'T JUST COMING TO VISIT YOUR HOUSE...

I'VE BEEN WORRIED ABOUT LUCRETIA...

THANK YOU VALERIA.

SHE ACTS MATURE BUT SHE'S STILL AT THE AGE WHERE SHE LIKES TO BE SPOILED.

YOU BEING AROUND TO HELP OUT IS CERTAINLY REASSURING.

SHE JUST SEES MY FATHER NOW.

WHEN SHE LOOKS AT ME...

WHENEVER MOTHER SEES ME SHE JUST GETS HORRIBLY FRIGHTENED.

I'M NO GOOD THOUGH.

FU?

LORD DEMITORIUS?

I'VE NO HOME...

WHICH I CAN HAPPILY GO BACK TO EITHER.

I RESEMBLE MY FATHER EVEN MORE.

MY TEACHERS HAVE SAID THAT, DAY BY DAY...

FATHER ONLY CARES FOR HIS WORK... WHILE MOTHER HAS A NEW MAN NOW...

WE JUST CAN'T GET ON TOGETHER.

THAT UNFEELING MONSTER WON'T EVEN COME HOME...

THAT'S WHY I'M GRATEFUL...

HERE.

チャラ..

IT REALLY FEELS LIKE THIS IS THE PLACE I SHOULD BE.

I'M... AN ONLY CHILD TOO...

IF ANYONE'S A SPOILED CHILD I AM.

...

YOU CAN HOLD ONTO THIS PRECIOUS THING FOR ME.

I'LL GIVE YOU MY BULLA*.

* A PROTECTIVE CHARM GIVEN TO BOYS FROM FREE FAMILIES. WORN UNTIL ADULTHOOD.

THOUGH I WOULD HAVE PREFERRED SOMETHING MORE FITTING.

THIS IS THE BEST THING I COULD'VE ASKED FOR.

MM.

I'LL ALWAYS KEEP IT ON ME, RUSKA.

BROTHER...

VALERIA.

I REALLY WANTED TO SEE YOU...

RAISE THE BATTLE FLAG!

EVERYONE, FALL IN!

RAISE THE CURTAINS!

SALUTE THE HERO UPON HIS TRIUMPHANT RETURN!

WE ARE THE MAN-SERVANTS OF THE GOD OF WAR!

WHILE BEARING OUR MISSION TO REMAIN UNDEFEATED, WE CRUSHED NUMEROUS CHAMPIONS!

PANKRATOS LEGION

ELITE GUARD UNIT

WELL DONE ON MAKING IT BACK TO ROME SAFELY!

AIDE

RESIDENT OF ROME

DINODEIMOS OF SPARTA

DEPUTY CHIEF

REPATRIATE FROM BRITTANIA

DRAIZEN OF ARGOS

REPATRIATE FROM GERMANIA

APOLLONIUS OF THEBES

CHIEF GUARD

SORLEON OF MACEDONIA

REPATRIATE FROM GAUL

ADONIS OF SYRACUSE

REPATRIATE FROM SYRIA

DAEDALUS OF MYCENAE

REPATRIATE FROM EGYPT

THIRD RANKED GUARD

2ND RANKED GUARD

REPATRIATE FROM HISPANIA

CASSANDRA OF TROY

ROXXANE OF ARCADIA

RESIDENT OF ROME

REPATRIATE FROM NUMIDIA

EDDA OF RHODES

WITH A TOTAL OF 1,270 VICTORIES!

COMMANDER

DEMITORIUS OF ATTICA

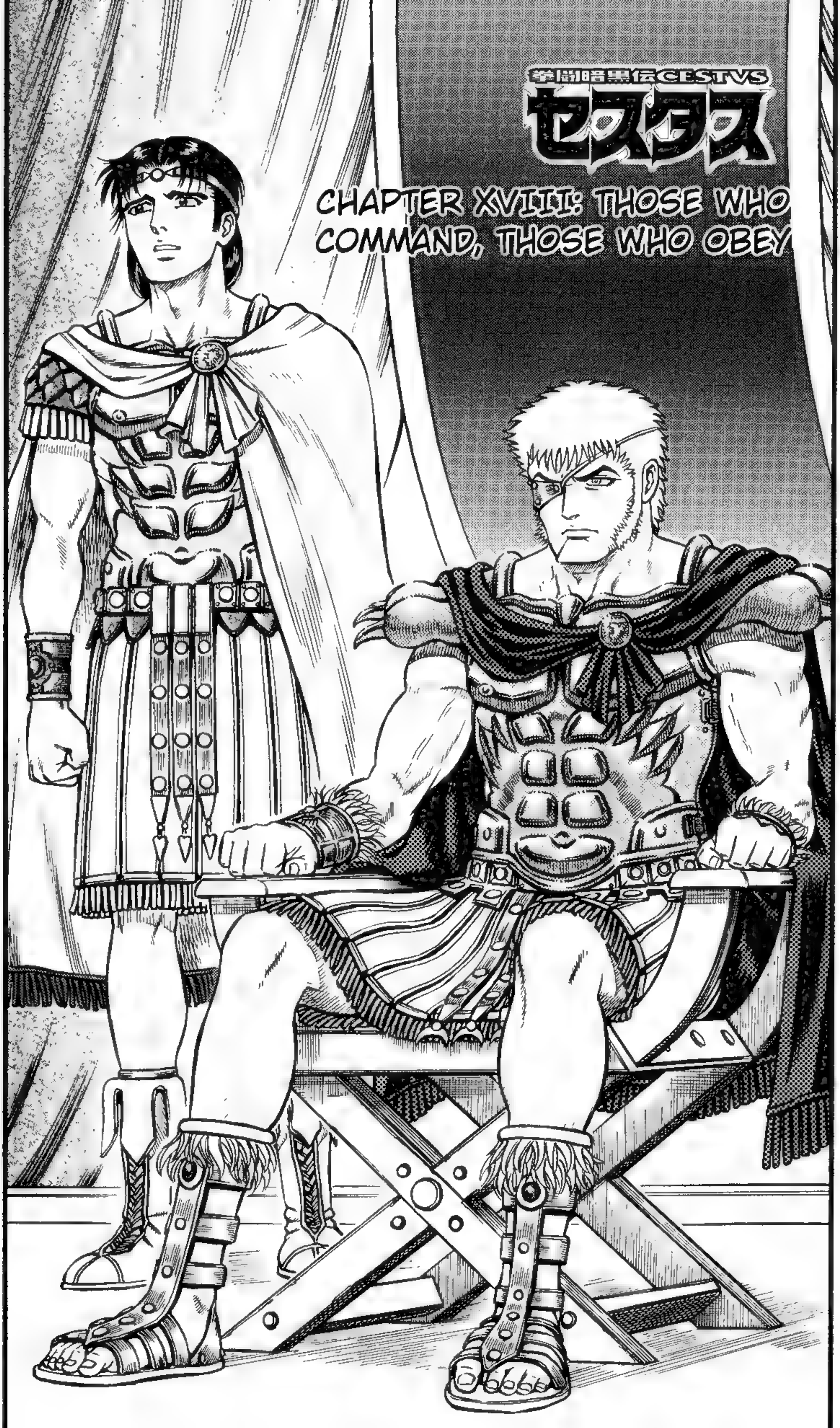
THE ONE WHO WIELDS THAT POWER IN DEFENCE OF THE EMPEROR.

CHAPTER XVIII - REPATRIATION - END

拳闘暗黒伝CESTVS

セスタス

CHAPTER XVIIII: THOSE WHO COMMAND, THOSE WHO OBEY



ONCE YOU'RE DONE PILING IT UP SET FIRE TO IT AT ONCE!

MM...

IT WILL BE DEALT WITH COMPLETELY, COMMANDER!

ゴゴゴ。ゴゴゴ。。。

ゴゴ ゴゴ。。

ゴゴ ゴゴ

AAH, IT'S JUST ASH NOW...

THOSE WERE OUR SPOILS...

WHAT A WASTE...

LISTEN WELL NEW RECRUITS!

COMMON SENSE COMES PRIOR TO MILITARY RULES IN VICTORY!

IT WOULD BE SHEER STUPIDITY TO LET YOU GET INTOXICATED ON VICTORY BY IDLY GAZING AT SUCH REWARDS!

IT SHOULD BRING SHAME TO THOSE WANTING TO BE CHAMPIONS!

OUR MISSION IS TO EXPLORE THE LIMITS OF FIGHTING!

THE PRIDE OF VICTORY ALONE IS THE FIGHTER'S TREASURE.

EMPTY HANDED YOU FIGHT, AND EMPTY HANDED YOU MOVE ON!

ONLY THE MARKS OF VICTORY ADORN OUR CHESTS.

WE TRAVEL AN ENDLESS, PATHLESS ROAD.

QUITE RIGHT...

AND WHEN YOU ATTAIN THE STRONGEST POINT, THE GLORY OF OLYMPIA...

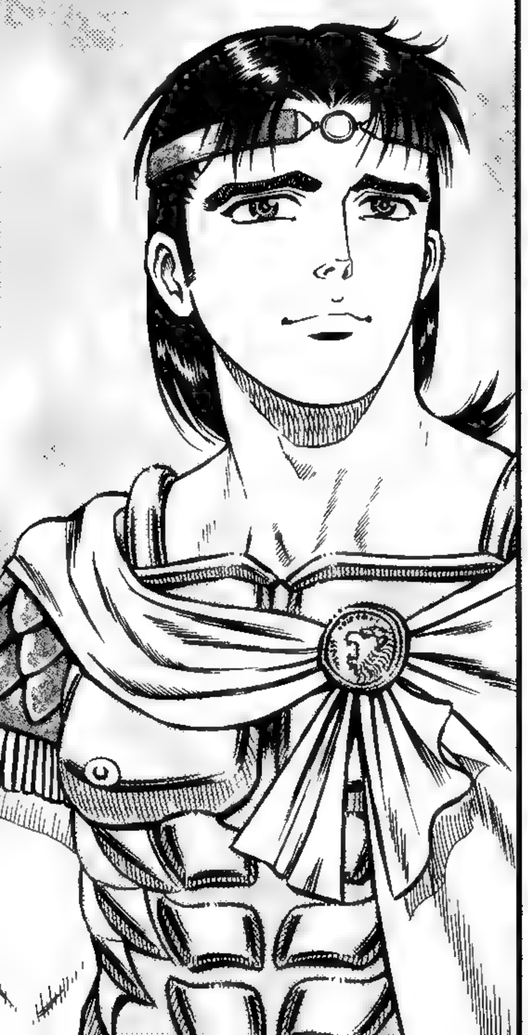
RECIEVE THE BLOWS OF YOUR ENEMIES' FANGS WITH YOUR OWN FLESH AND BLOOD.

SHALL FALL ONCE MORE ON ROME!

YOU MUST COMPETE WITH MEN OF VALOR!

MIGHT AND STATUS WHICH COMPARES TO THAT OF THE IMPERIAL GUARD...

HE'S REALISED IT ALL WITH NOTHING MORE THAN HIS OWN HANDS...



YOU ARE TO INTEGRATE ALL MANNER OF FIGHTING SKILLS FROM FAR AND WIDE!

OUR FLAG BEARS THE LEGENDARY BEAST, THE CHIMERA*. UNDERNEATH IT...

* THE CHIMERA WAS A MYTHICAL BEAST WITH THE BODY OF A LION, THE TAIL OF A SERPENT AND A GOAT'S HEAD.

IT'S LIKE I CAN HEAR THE ROAR OF THE SEA THAT DAY...

ROME WILL PROVIDE THE BATTLEGROUND WHICH I SEEK.

I'M FED UP WITH FIGHTING THE SMALL FRY HERE.

LET US GO TO ROME, DRAIZEN.

22 YEARS PRIOR

SOUNION CAPE, GREECE

THERE WILL BE WEALTH, POWER AND TALENTED MEN.

WITH 50 WINS THE NOBLES WILL NO LONGER BE ABLE TO IGNORE ME.

AT 100 EVEN THE EMPEROR HIMSELF WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO DO SO...

AND THEN, WITH 200 WINS, MY NAME WILL BE KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE EMPIRE!

WITH 10 WINS IN THE ARENA IN ROME I WILL DRAW THE ATTENTION OF THE PEOPLE.

LET US MAKE CLEAR THE PRIZE WE ARE WAGERING.

WITH EACH WIN OUR SKILLS WILL RESOUND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD!

YOU SHALL COME WITH ME TOO, DRAIZEN.

TRAIN ME FURTHER DINODEIMOS!

WE SHALL SET OUT THE STRONGEST OF FIGHTING SKILLS, AND BRING ABOUT A WARRIOR CLASS IN ROME!

SIR...

YOUNG SIR...

I WAS STILL AN INNOCENT CHILD.

LET US GO TOGETHER!

WE THREE SHALL TAKE THE HEART OF ROME BY FORCE.

SO YOU WANT TO FIGHT AND STEAL THE EMPIRE EH...

I'M ALL FIRED UP.

MASTER WAS STILL IN ACTIVE DUTY.

=+..

WITH THIS, WE SHALL HAVE MAGNIFICENT, INTENSE FIGHTS...

RIGHT, DRAIZEN.

OUR TEDIUM WILL END.

THOSE INTERESTED IN PROMOTION PLEASE APPLY BEFOREHAND!

COME AFTERNOON WE SHALL BEGIN PRACTICE DRILLS.

WITHDRAW!

SIR!

I LEAVE THE REST TO YOU DRAIZEN.

FIND IT UNBELIEVABLE...

HOWEVER, I STILL...

INJURE THE GREAT HERO OF THE EMPIRE, HE WHO HAS GONE UNDEFEATED FOR 400 BATTLES!

THAT THERE EXISTS A MAN WHO COULD...

HEY...

GEEZ, MASTER!

MASTER...

NO-ONE'S TOLD ME ANYTHING YET.

WHAT SORT OF PEOPLE WILL WE BE UP AGAINST?

WHAT'S WITH THIS PRACTICE MATCH?

WHAT IS IT, CESTVS?

STAYS LIKE THIS...

Y... YEAH, IF IT...

THERE'S NO WAY WE'LL BE ABLE TO FIGHT LIKE THIS.

EVERYONE'S STILL WORN OUT FROM THE PREVIOUS MATCH...

YOUR LIVES WILL BE FINE.

ゴッ

ゴッ

DON'T WORRY.

STOP WITH THE IDLE CHATTER!

IT'LL JUST BE A PLAY FIGHT.

ええ——…

WE'RE GONNA LIVE!

はあ！

I'M SURE THAT THAT'S...

HUH?

WE'RE OFF TO THE PANKRATOS LEGION TRAINING SCHOOL.

THAT'S ALL I KNOW.

WHERE RUSKA IS...

ゴッ ゴッ ゴッ ゴッ

TCH.

I'M TRULY SORRY...

THE ROADS WERE FAIRLY BUSY.

YOU'RE LATE, DAMN IDIOT!

ドス

TH... THANK YOU.

ヒヒ

CLINK

HERE.

ポン

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING.

IT IS A SCHOOL AFTER ALL...

MM...

WHAT'S THIS... AIN'T THEY AROUND OUR AGE?!

LOOK, IT'S THEM.

WELL, THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT THEY'RE THE CHILDREN OF NOBLES.

THEY'VE OBVIOUSLY GROWN UP WATHCHING THEIR PARENTS ACT LIKE THAT.

THEY'RE BOSSING AROUND THE ADULTS...

I DON'T LIKE THIS.

REGARDLESS OF ANYONE ELSE, I AM A BOXING SLAVE.

WHEREVER I GO, THAT WALL OF MINE TRAILS ME.

LOOKED DOWN UPON.

COME ON AND GET READY!

OI, YOU LOT!

YOU'VE OPPONENTS!

I'M SHOUTED AT.

THE GODS ARE UNFAIR.

ALRIGHT, LET'S BEGIN.

BOXING SLAVES.

THE LOWEST OF THE LOW...

777...

SEE, WE'RE ONLY HERE TODAY AS SCHOOL'S TEMPORARILY CLOSED.

THEY'RE STARTLED.

I'LL GO.

ANYONE'S FINE, JUST HURRY UP.

I WANT TO TEST OUT THOSE BOXING ARMS OF YOURS.

COME ON AND GET READY, WE'VE FREE TIME TO KILL.

YOU'RE MEANT TO BE A PROFESSIONAL?

TRY AND MAKE A MOVE!

TAKE THAT, AND THAT. HOW'S THAT EH?!

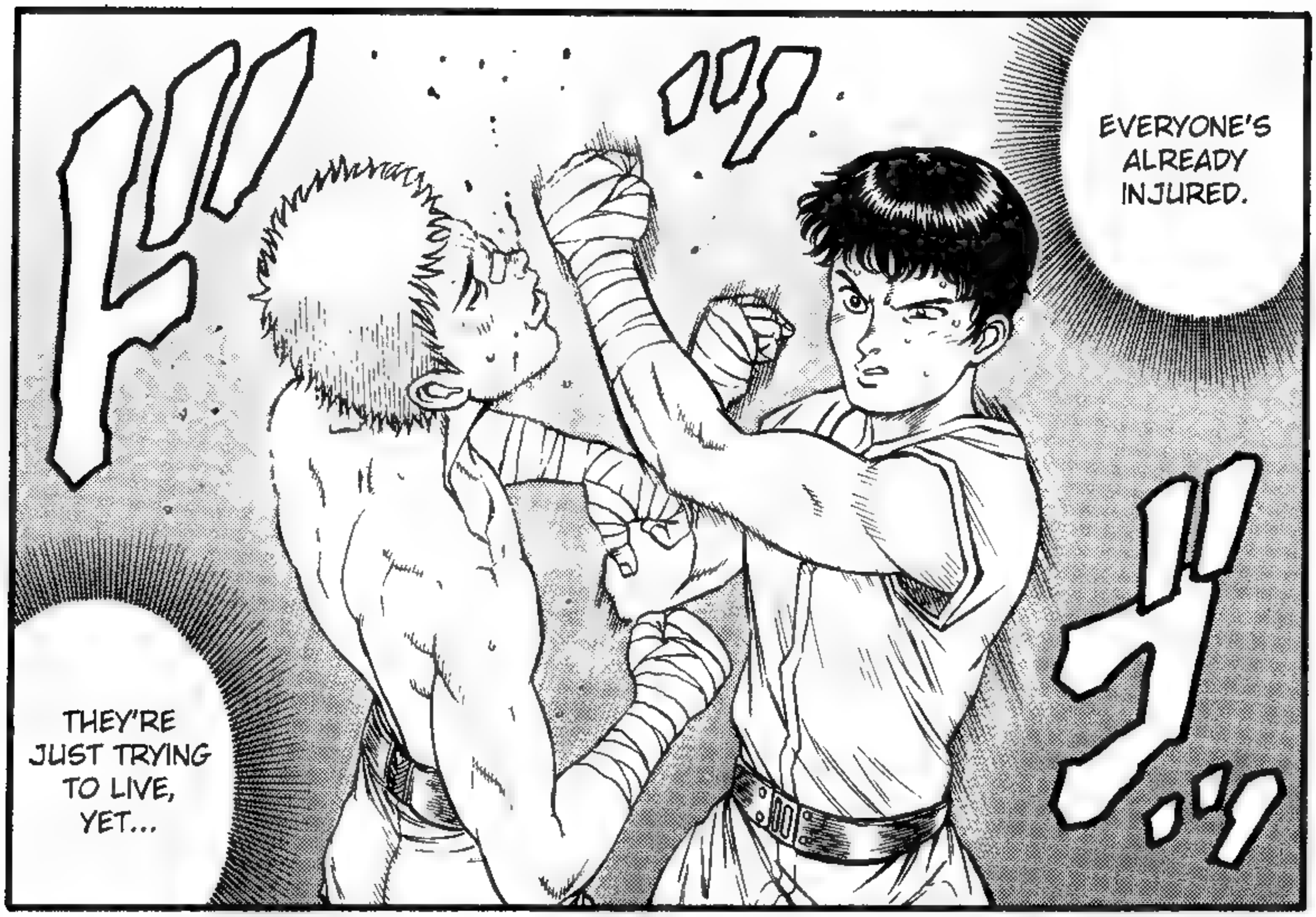
TCH... NEXT!

COME ON OUT WHOEVER'S NEXT!

GET UP!

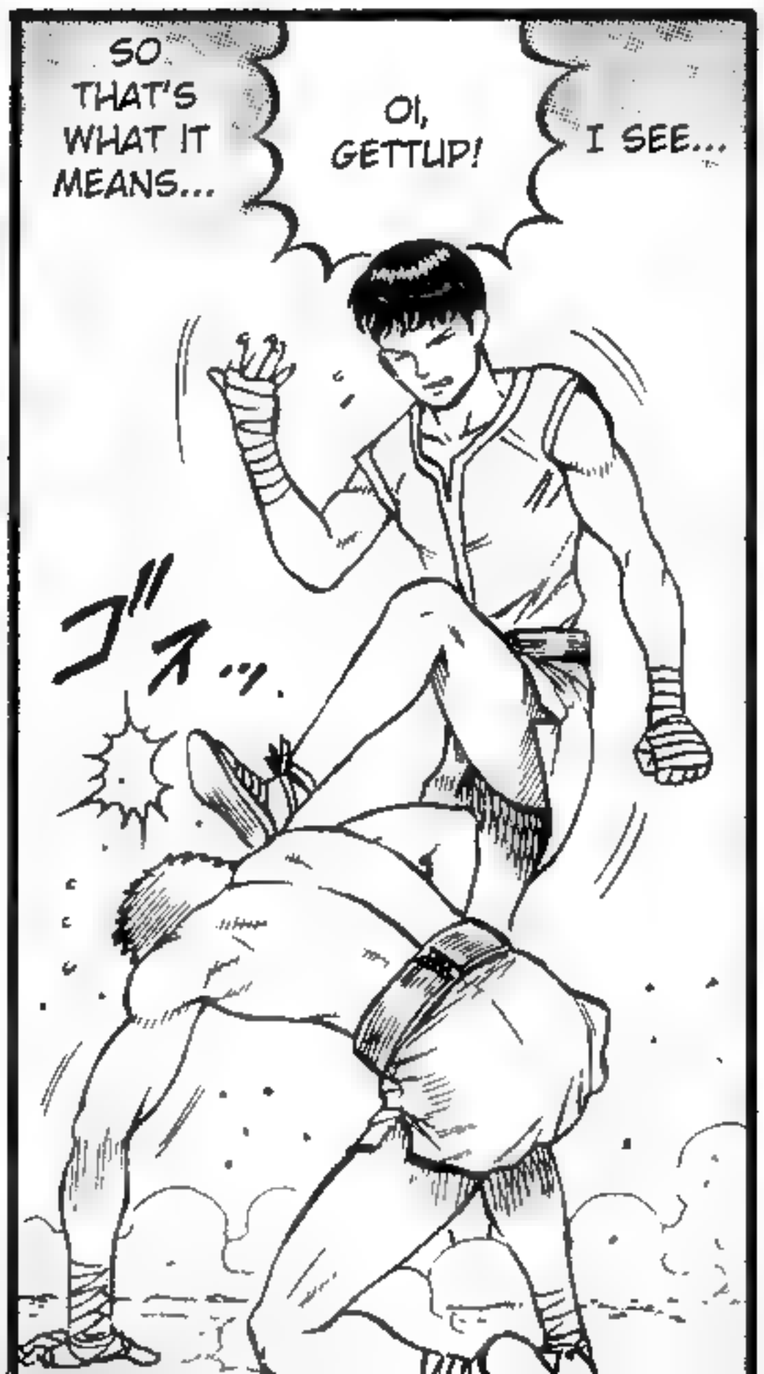
OH, YOU'RE DONE ALREADY?!

IT'S TOO MUCH.


EVERYONE'S ALREADY INJURED.
THEY'RE JUST TRYING TO LIVE, YET...

HE'S LIKE A PUPPET!
OI OI, HE'S CRUSHING HIM.

WHEN YOU SAY "PLAYING" EH...


SO THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS...
OI, GETTUP!
I SEE...

HIS BODY IS UNABLE TO FIGHT BACK.

THEY GAVE PLENTY OF MONEY FOR SPARRING PARTNERS.

WHAT THOSE KIDS MEAN FOR US.

YOU UNDERSTAND RIGHT, ZAFAR.

OUR GOOD LORD VALENS CAN FIND OUT ABOUT ANYTHING MORE OR LESS...

SO WE ONLY PICKED THOSE WHO ARE INJURED AND EASY TO FIGHT.

...

YOU SHOULD TALK TO THAT PUPIL OF YOURS...

ENSURE HE DOESN'T HAVE THE WRONG IDEA.

YES MASTER?

JUST A MINUTE CESTVS.

NEXT PERSON, HURRY UP AND COME!

REMEMBER IT'S JUST TRAINING.

...

EH?!

AS IF OFTEN THE CASE...

IF YOU TRY AND FIGHT BACK, IT'LL BE NEVER ENDING.

MASTER...!

...

NOW GET READY!

DON'T BE SO ABSENT MINDED!

AM I TRULY NOT ALLOWED TO FIGHT SERIOUSLY?!

IF SO, JUST HOW AM I TO SURPASS THIS WALL?!

I...

CHAPTER XVIII - THOSE WHO COMMAND, THOSE WHO OBEY - END

THESE GUYS LIKELY LACK A SERIOUS REASON FOR FIGHTING...

THINKING ABOUT IT...

拳闘暗黒伝CESTVS

セスタス

CHAPTER XIX: CRUSADE

THEY'VE NEVER NEEDED TO HAVE BITTER TRAINING JUST TO EKE OUT AN EXISTENCE...

HMPH...

THEY'VE BEEN PROTECTED BY THEIR HIGH SOCIAL STATUS FROM BIRTH...

VIOLENCE IS JUST A PLAYTHING FOR THEM...

THE SAME AS A TOY WHICH CAN BE BOUGHT!

AAH, CESTVS!

THIS IS BAD!

HE'S TAKING SO MANY BLOWS!

NEXT!

THE MIDGET CAN'T EVEN TALK NOW!

HURRY UP AND REPLACE HIM!

IT'S STRANGE!

THERE WAS SOMETHING OFF ABOUT THAT MIDGET...

WHAT'S UP, TIRED FROM PUNCHING?

...?

I WAS SURE THAT I WAS HITTING HIM FULL STRENGTH, YET...

HE GAVE NO SORT OF RESPONSE AT ALL!

Y... YOU...!

I'M FINE...

HE TRIED SHOWING OFF WITH YOU...

ARE YOU ALRIGHT CESTVS?

YOUR FACE...?!

I DIDN'T TAKE ONE DIRECT HIT.

EH?!

YOU WERE HIT SO MUCH...

HOW DO YOU HAVE NO WOUNDS?!

WH...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?!

ALL OF MY OPPONENT'S BLOWS.

?!

I JUST WENT ALONG WITH...

SWAYING IN A STRONG BREEZE.

LIKE A NEW LEAF...

I TURNED MY FACE AND, WITHOUT GOING AGAINST HIS FORCE, WARDED IT OFF.

THE MOMENT MY OPPONENT STRUCK WITH HIS FIST...

IN REALITY I MANAGED TO AVOID THE BLUNT OF HIS BLOWS.

IT MAY HAVE LOOKED LIKE HE WAS HITTING ME LOTS, BUT...

AND EVEN IF YOU DID MANAGE IT, YOU ONLY AVOIDED A DIRECT HIT...

BUT HAD YOU LET SLIP EVEN A LITTLE BREATH YOU WOULD'VE FAILED...

IT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT YOU WERE PUNCHED.

YOU CAN REALLY DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT...?

HM?...

SO THEY ALL SLIPPED BY?!

N... NO WAY?!

IT WAS JUST A WAY FOR ME TO MINIMIZE DAMAGE EVEN AT THE VERY END.

SO WHY DID IT LOOK LIKE YOU WERE DONE IN AND SHAKEN?

THAT'S NOT HOW IT WAS, ABEL.

DRILL IT INTO YOUR BODY!

I'LL TEACH YOU A FINAL METHOD OF PROTECTION.

IN A MUTUAL GAME OF BLOWS THERE WILL SURELY COME A TIME WHEREIN YOU'RE UNABLE TO DODGE YOUR OPPONENT'S FISTS.

I ONLY SHOWED IT TO YOU BECAUSE IT'S YOU CESTVS...

IT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU CAN MASTER EVEN BY PUTTING IN GREAT AMOUNTS OF EFFORT.

MASTER TAUGHT IT TO ME RECENTLY.

WOAH.

FOR REAL?

A QUICK PERCEPTION, FLEXIBLE CONSTITUTION AND SPEEDY REACTIONS...

WITHOUT THOSE PRODIGIOUS TALENTS YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO ATTAIN SUCH A DEFENCE.

COME HERE.

HEY, BIG GUY!

MASTER MUST'VE HAD SUCH TROUBLESOME THOUGHTS TOO...

MANY TIMES OVER...

IT HAPPENED AGAIN...

ヒヤ…!

チラ

I'M TIRED OF PUNCHING MIDGETS.

I'LL FACE YOU NOW.

DON'T MOVE CESTVS.

M... MASTER!

!

B... BASTARD.

SAY SOMETHING!

DOES A MERE BOXING SLAVE HAVE A COMPLAINT TO MAKE?!

IS SOMETHING OFF?!

MASTER TOLD YOU NOT TO MOVE!

BEAR WITH IT, CESTVS!

HAAH.

WHERE THE HELL ARE YOU LOOKING?!

IT'S THE ELITE GUARD OF THE PANKRATOS LEGION!

!

ヒュオオ

ルルル

ルルル

ルルル

THE GOLDEN LION OF ATTICA!

EEK!

STAND UP!

WHAT'S WITH THIS PATHETIC SCENE YOU BASTARD?!

DON'T PLAY AROUND!

THIS IS MEANT TO BE THE MAN WHO WOUNDED ME...?!

...

I'M NOT PLAYING AROUND.

WHO I AM NOW.

THIS IS...

TO SEE THE ONCE STRONGEST BOXING SLAVE LIKE THIS...

HOW PATHETIC THOUGH...

ZAFAR OF NUMIDIA.

THE ONLY MAN ONCE ABLE TO FIGHT ON PAR WITH THE COMMANDER...

DON'T FUSS, IT'S JUST A SCRATCH.

MASTER!

LET'S GET BACK!

DAMN IT...!

DAMN HIM...

WHAT'S HE DOING HERE?!

WE INTERRUPTED YOUR PRACTICE, BUT PLEASE...

CARRY ON!

CARRYING OUT TRAINING OF YOUR OWN ACCORD SHOWS A COMMENDABLE READINESS.

YOU, TRAINEES OVER THERE.

Y... YES SIR!

JUST ABOUT DONE.

NO, W... WE WERE ALREADY...

ER, BUT...

I SHALL ASSESS YOUR MATCHES.

THE TIME FOR PLAYING AROUND IS OVER!

YOU NEEDN'T SHOW RESTRAINT!

GYIIN...

CRUSH.

WHAT IS IT, DINODEIMOS?

COMMA-NDER.

I... I'LL GO FIRST SIR.

GYIIN

SOKU

Y... YES SIR.

GYIIN

...TE!

IF I DON'T I'LL BE KILLED!

YOU SHOULD LEAVE THIS TO ME.

A PLAIN OLD PRACTICE MATCH WOULD LACK SERIOUSNESS.

THERE SHALL BE FIVE ON EACH SIDE IN THESE MATCHES.

HOWEVER THERE WILL BE CERTAIN CONDITIONS.

WIN, AND YOU'LL BE PROMOTED. LOSE, AND YOU'LL BE KICKED OUT OF CLASS.

IF ALL FIVE FAIL THEN ALL SHALL BE EXPELLED!

IF WE LOSE...

WE'LL BE KICKED OUT!

THINK ABOUT IT, WE AIN'T GONNA LOSE.

THEY'RE ALL WEAK AND WORN DOWN ALREADY.

OI, WHAT DO WE DO?

IDIIIOT, YOU DON'T NEED TO GET SCARED.

WHAT'S MORE, WE'LL BE ABLE TO TORMENT THEM AS MUCH AS WE WANT.

THEY'RE HALF CRIPPLES NOW. EVEN IF THEY GET FIRED UP, THEY AIN'T GONNA BE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING.

WE'LL BE PROMOTED WITH EASE!

CESTVS.

YOU'RE OUR VANGUARD.

IT'S USELESS. WE CAN'T WIN CAN WE?

SO IT'S A TEAM MATCH THEN?

YOU WILL LOOK TO BEAT ALL FIVE IN SUCCESSION.

HOWEVER, NO ONE WILL FOLLOW YOU.

IT'S NO ISSUE.

ALL OF THEIR GUYS ARE STILL FULLY READY.

YES SIR!

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE LEFT WHO CAN MOVE TO A SATISFACTORY DEGREE.

ええ――…!

MASTER...!

THIS TIME YOU CAN BRING OUT YOUR FULL POWER!

IT'S FINE, IF IT'S YOU YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO IT.

SHOW THEM THE TENACITY OF A SLAVE BOXER!

SOCIAL STANDING MEANS SHIT ALL IN A FIGHT.

FIRST PARTICIPANTS, FOWARD!

I'LL MESS AROUND AND TORMENT THIS SCRAWNY LITTLE SLAVE BOXER!

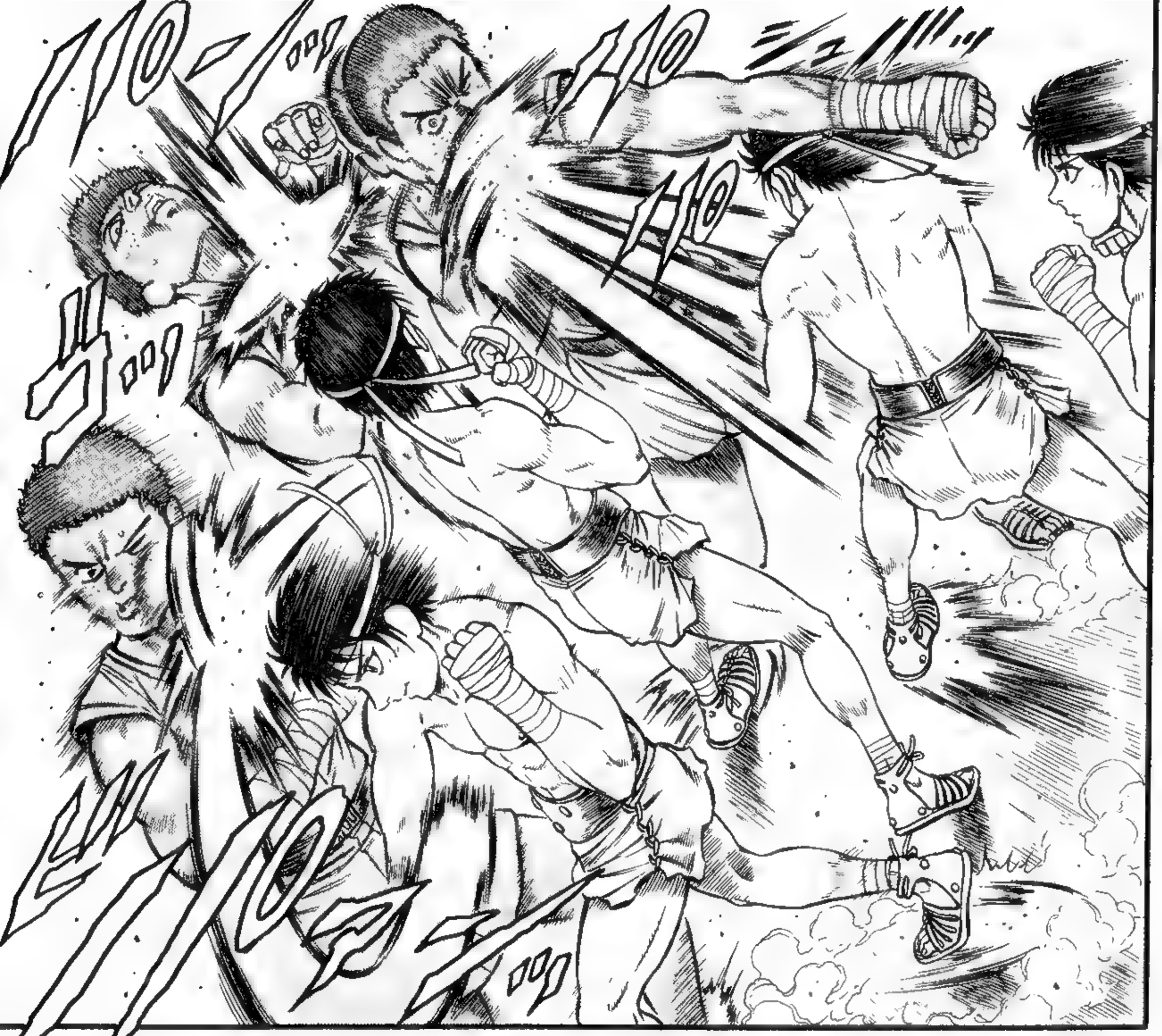
HE'S THE ONE WHO DARED TO ATTACK MASTER!

OI, COME ON.

TRY AND BRING IT, MIDGET!

BEGIN!

HERE I COME.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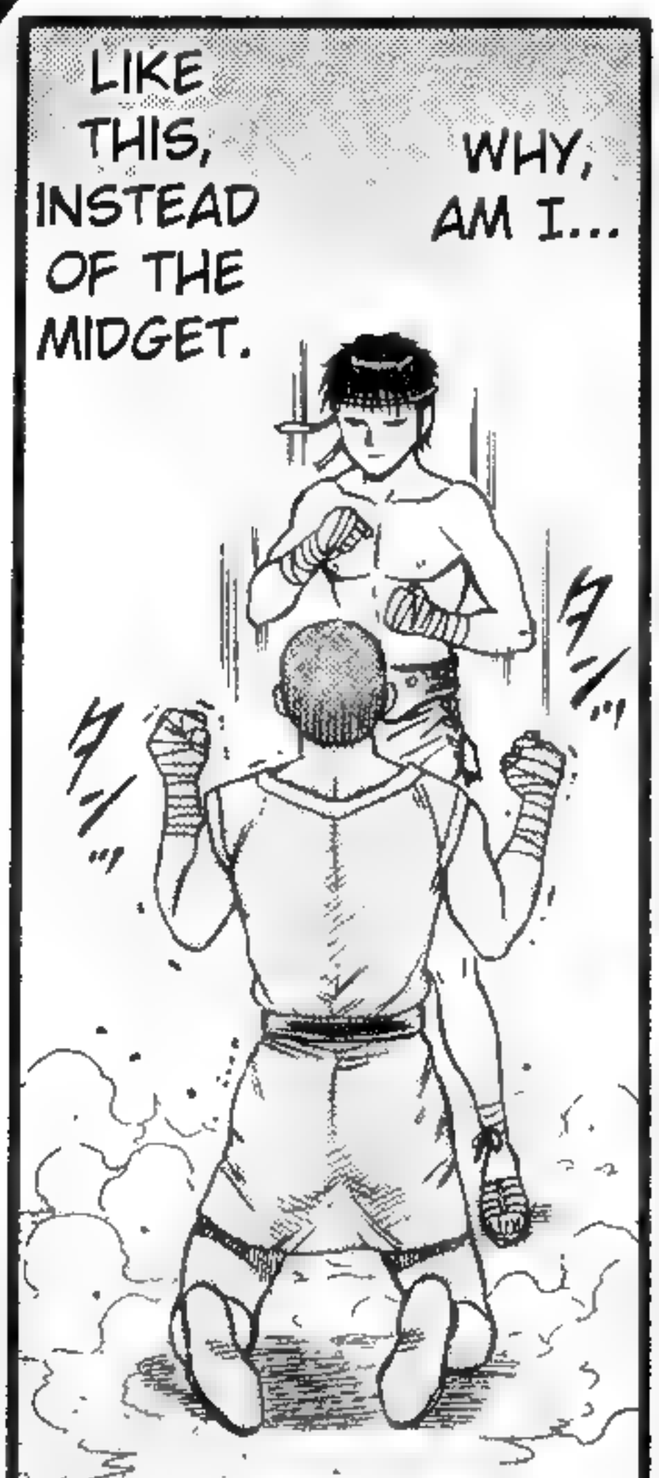
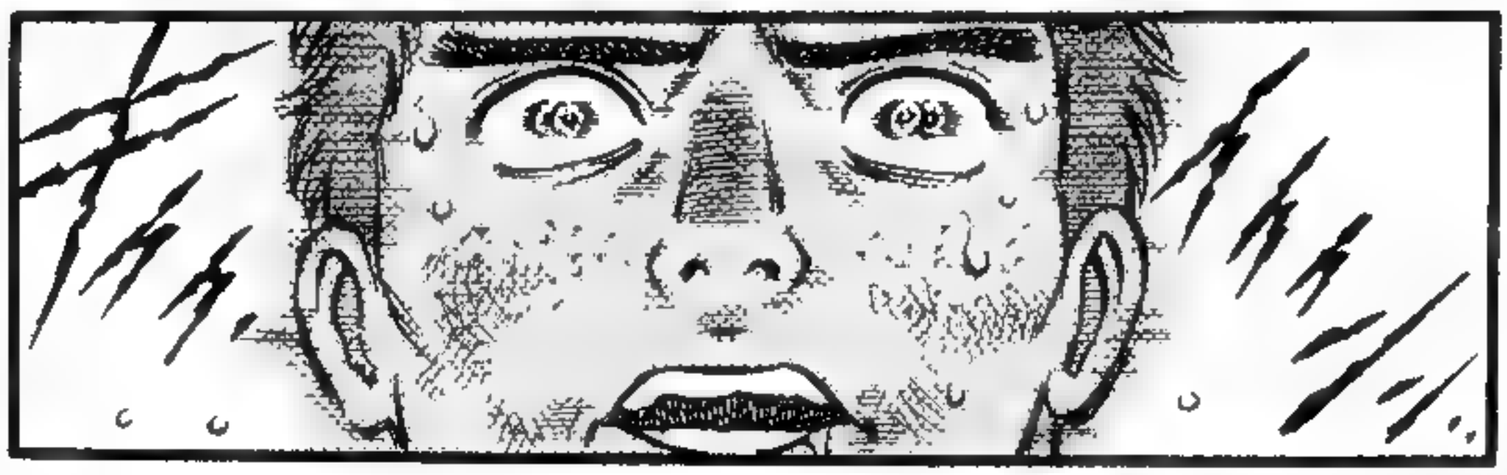

LIKE THIS, INSTEAD OF THE MIDGET.
WHY, AM I...



THIS IS STRANGE...

WHAT WAS THAT?! THIS IS...?
H... HUH?

BOXING ISN'T JUST SOME PLAY THING!

DON'T TAKE MATTERS OF VICTORY OR DEFEAT SO LIGHTLY!

CHAPTER XIX: CRUSADE - END

拳闘暗黒伝CESTVS
セスタス
CHAPTER XX: THE
SUCCESSOR TO HIS FIST

THE FIRST WIN!

YOU DAMN IDIOT, WHAT THE HELL WAS WITH THAT NEGLIGENCE?!

THAT'S HIS TRUE STRENGTH, WHICH HE USED TO DEFEAT ROCCO.

WAS HE REALLY THAT STRONG?!

HE EASILY TOOK HIM DOWN!

I SHALL BE THE SECOND PARTICIPANT!

PLEASE LET THE FIGHT CARRY ON LIKE THIS!

TAKE IT SERIOUSLY!

MM.

SECOND PARTICIPANTS, FORWARD!

WE WON'T BE SWAPPING.

HURRY UP AND SWAP.

SWISH

SWISH

SWISH

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, CARRY ON!

WH... WHAT THE HELL?!

IS THAT MIDGET LOOKING DOWN ON US?!

LET'S SEE HOW YOU FARE.

BEGIN!

IF I CAN LAND A PUNCH THEN IT'LL BE EASY TO CATCH HIM.

WHAT'S THIS... HE'S JUST A LIL' QUICK...

!

SWOOSH

HAH.

ARGH...

W...

WOAH.

S... SHIT!

MY LEGS ARE ALL WOBBLY!

WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED?!

THAT BOY'S CERTAINLY NOT AN ORDINARY PERSON.

IT'S PROOF THAT HE STRUCK ACCURATELY AT KEY POINTS.

GOOD GRIEF. HE WAS SICKENED BY THE FISTS AND IS NOW STAGGERING AROUND LIKE A DRUNK.

HAAH.

ハァ..

ヒロイ

GURGH!

ドドド

AT A GLANCE HE DECIDED TO AIM FOR THE BRITTLE CHIN.

HE CHANGES HIS ANGLE OF ATTACK WITH COMPLETE EASE...

HUFF.

HE'S SWIFT...

HE COULD KILL WITH THOSE FISTS.

HAS FIVE CONSECUTIVE WINS IN THE ARENA AGAINST ADULTS.

IT'S OBVIOUS HE WOULDN'T FALL BEHIND TO BOYS HIS OWN AGE.

HE'S GOT A CUTE FACE TOO!

THE BOY MOVES WELL.

EDDA, CASANDRA, THAT BOY...

DON'T GET JEALOUS, EDDA...

EEEH, NO WAY?!

FUFUFU, WELL PERHAPS.

YOU SEEM TO KNOW A LOT ABOUT HIM DEAR SISTER.

IS HE A FAVOURITE OF YOURS?

IT'S NO WONDER I'M GETTING OLD IS IT!

HAAH...

I FELT LIKE 10 YEARS PASSED WATCHING THAT MATCH.

HE'S WON AGAIN!

IT SEEMS CERTAIN THAT THAT'S THE REASON WHY HE'S RAISED SUCH A UNIQUE FIGHTER...

I HAD THOUGHT THAT HIS DREAM OF FREEDOM WOULD HAVE WASTED AWAY LONG AGO BUT...

IT'S THE BOXING WOLF OF NUMIDIA!

GOOD...

THAT BOY IS THE SUCCESSOR TO THE FIST OF THE BOXING WOLF.

THAT BOY...

DOES IT CONCERN YOU, AS A BOXER WITH A SIMILAR STYLE?

WHEN HE WAS ACTIVE I HEARD THAT HE WAS AN IMPRESSIVE SLUGGER...

ZAFAR OF NUMIDIA...

...

WHEN A PROPER BLOW LIKE THAT CRACKS YOUR SKULL...

WELL, LET ME TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENS TO THE HUMAN BODY...

.....

YOU STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT A TRUE SMITING BLOW IS.

OF COURSE, COMMANDER!

ALL PERCEPTION IS TORN APART BY THAT FIST!

YOU LOSE CONSCIOUSNESS INSTANTLY.

ALL OF THE MUSCLES IN THE BODY COLLAPSE AS THOUGH DEAD...

YOU CRASH STRAIGHT DOWN!

THE BOXING WOLF ZAFAR.

THE SPEED OF HIS MASTERED FANGS WAS UNMATCHED.

AFTER BEING BEWITCHED BY HAND TO HAND COMBAT FOR 20 YEARS...

IT MADE ME QUIVER WITH JOY...

SEEING SUCH A STRONG CREATURE BELOW ME, ONE WHO HAD THE SAME SMELL AS I...

HE WAS A BEAUTIFUL BEAST, WHO GAVE OFF A DIFFERENT SORT OF RADIANCE TO THE OTHER SLAVES.

EVEN WHEN BOUND BY CHAINS...

IT WAS A CHANCE MEETING WITH A WOULD BE RIVAL.

I HAD FOUND SOMETHING TO TRULY YEARN FOR.

MADE A BAFFLING ACTION

THAT RADIANT VICTOR...

BUT...

TO BEG FOR THE LIFE OF A VANQUISHED DOG.

I WAS DISENCHANTED.

I DON'T KNOW WHETHER OR NOT HIS MAJESTY WAS AFFECTED BY THE CROWD'S SUDDEN MANIA, BUT...

HE'S DANGE-ROUS.

WE HAVE NO NEED FOR A SLAVE HERO!

THAT MAN IS DANGEROUS!

YOUR MAJES-TY?

THE EMPEROR CLAUDIUS WAS FAMOUS FOR HIS TIMIDITY. INDEED HE WAS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT TO A NORMAL COWARD.

YOU DAMN FOOLISH WOLF...

BEGIN!

THIRD CONTE-STANTS!

HE MAKES GOOD USE OF HIS FLEXIBILITY TO ROTATE IN QUICK STRIKES.

HE STRIKES LIGHTLY, QUICKLY, AND WITHOUT PAUSE...

IT'S THE COMPLETE OPPOSITE OF THOSE WHO AIM TO BRING THEIR OPPONENT DOWN IN ONE PUNCH. IT'S QUITE THE TRIFLING METHOD OF ATTACK.

HE'S ACTING RATIONALLY ACCORDING TO HIS OWN NATURAL TALENTS.

IT MORE THAN COMPENSATES FOR HIS LACKING PHYSIQUE. IT SHOULD BE SAID THAT HE'S A SMART FIGHTER.

...

JUST WHAT WILL GROW IF YOU FIGHT WHILE LACKING IN PASSION?

IF YOU DON'T TACKLE THESE CHALLENGES YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO ADVANCE.

ADULTHOOD IS NOTHING BUT A HISTORY OF THE CHALLENGES WHICH YOU ROSE TO.

KEEP IT UP!

THAT'S GREAT CESTVS!

SMALL STEPS ARE ONCE MORE ENOUGH! YOU'VE BEEN RUNNING HERE THESE PAST 10 YEARS AFTER ALL!

WITHOUT GIVING UP STOP, THEN CONTINUE ON, EVEN IF YOU'RE ONLY TAKING SMALL STEPS.

IF YOU STOP YOU'LL FREEZE!

...

DON'T STOP!

KEEP ON PUNCHING, CESTVS!

FIRE UP YOUR BODY AS A FIGHTER!

IF YOU FIND IT FRUSTRATING THEN GET ANGRY!

YES, PUNCH LIKE THAT.

IF YOU'RE ANGRY THEN YOUR HEART WILL BE FIRED UP WITH YOUR STRIKES!

EVEN WITH FOUR OR FIVE PUNCHES IT WOULDN'T BE SO SIMPLE...

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR SOMEONE WITH YOUR PHYSIQUE TO MANAGE ONE PUNCH KNOCK OUTS.

GIVEN THAT...

YOU SHOULD TRY TEN OR SO BLOWS!

HAAH... HAH... SO FAST!

WOAAH, SO MANY BLOWS!

CAN A HUMAN REALLY MOVE THAT FAST?!

?!

THAT'S ENOUGH.

JUST TWO...

LEFT.

HE'S ALREADY GIVEN UP.

SIS...

IF I WERE TO HAVE A WORRY...

IT'D BE ABOUT HIS STAMINA.

CHAPTER XX: THE SUCCESSOR TO HIS FIST - END

CHAPTER XXI: A LONELY FIGURE

HAH.

HAH.

HAH.

THIS IS BAD.

HAH.

THIS IS BAD!

ARE YOU ALRIGHT CESTVS?

DID I SET OFF TOO QUICKLY?!

HAAH.

I'VE REACHED MY LIMIT.

THIS IS AS FAR AS HE'LL GET.

HIS OWN RAIN OF BLOWS HAS ENDED UP WORKING AGAINST HIM.

BUT HE WON'T PULL BACK.

SEEMS HE'S AIMING TO BEAT FOUR IN A ROW.

THE HELL DID YOU GIVE UP FOR, YOU'VE NO GUTS!

YOU'VE NOTHING LEFT AFTER THAT EH?!

IT'S OBVIOUS THAT HE'D BE EXHAUSTED.

HE'S FOUGHT THREE PEOPLE WITHOUT REST...

MASTER...

LEAVE IT TO HIM!

HE'S STILL FINE.

IT'S JUST IMPOSSIBLE FOR ONE PERSON ALONE!

I'LL REPLACE HIM MASTER!

THIS IS THE CRUCIAL MOMENT.

DON'T GIVE UP, CESTVS.

JUST WHAT IS IT THAT YOU SHOULD DO RIGHT NOW.

STARE AT YOUR LONELY SELF AND ASK...

YOU ARE ALWAYS ALONE ON THE FIELD OF BATTLE.

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

YOU CANNOT COUNT ON THE STRENGTH OF OTHERS.

FIND THE BEST PATH FOR YOU TO TAKE...

AND SO FIND IT!

IF WE COMPLETELY FAIL THEN WE'LL ALL BE KICKED OUT OF SCHOOL!

WE'D BE TOO DISGRACED TO WALK AROUND TOWN!

WE'VE ALREADY HAD THREE LOSSES IN A ROW!

O! O!, THIS IS FAR FROM EASY!

I'LL DEFINITELY CRUSH HIM!

YOU CAN MOAN ONCE WE SUFFER TWO MORE LOSSES!

IF IT'S LIKE THIS THEN DO WE REALLY NEED TO WORRY ABOUT APPEARANCES?

O!, LEND ME YOUR EAR.

GOT IT, NOW HURRY UP!

SO HE'S ALREADY LOW ON BREATH...

AAALRIGHT...

ギュッ

LIKE HELL AM I GONNA GIVE UP!

ハァ

ハァ

FOURTH CONTESTANTS FORWARD!

BEGIN!

ミシッ

HE HAS A FATAL WEAK SPOT.

HE'S A FAIRLY INTERESTING SUBJECT, HOWEVER...

HE'S TOO PURE!

THAT CHILD STILL FIGHTS FAR TOO INNOCENTLY!

!

OOPS!

FLIT.

GOT HIM!

HUH...

HE CAUGHT AND PUNCHED HIM!

THAT'S DIRTY!

SO THEY DON'T CARE ABOUT HOW THEY APPEAR NOW EH.

ドゴッ

SORRY, SORRY, I SLIPPED.

ケッ

IT MAKES IT AN EASY JOB FOR HIS CORNERED ENEMY TO PLAY FOUL.

HE'S TOO SINCERE, AND WILL FALL FOR SUCH SURPRISE ATTACKS.

IS NOTHING SHORT OF A MIRACLE.

HAS MANAGED TO SURVIVE IN THE CRUEL, CHAOTIC WORLD OF FIGHTING TILL TODAY...

THAT SUCH A NAIVE YOUNG CHILD...

HAAH.

HAAH.

HAAH.

HAAH.

HAAH.

HAAH.

PLEASE GET UP, YOU CAN STILL FIGHT ON!

DON'T LOSE CESTVS!

K... KEEP IT TOGETHER!

STAND UP, STAND UP AND FACE THEM!

SQUEEZE OUT YOUR WILLPOWER CESTVS!

THIS MATCH HAS TO BECOME A SOURCE OF NOURISHMENT FOR YOU!

HUFF.

HUFF.

WANT TO LOSE TO THIS SORTA GUY!

THERE'S NO WAY THAT I...

SO HE'S STILL HOLDING ON EH!

TCH.

SWISH.

URGH!

I GET IT, I SEE NOW.

THE BEST ROUTE!

KEEP COMING TOWARDS ME!

COME ON!

HUFF.

OH... SO HIS FIGHTING STYLE'S CHANGED.

YOU DID WELL TO NOTICE.

IS HE TIRED AND UNABLE TO ATTACK?

HE'S FALLING BACK, HIS TOTAL NUMBER OF BLOWS HAS COMPLETELY GONE DOWN!

NO, THIS IS GOOD!

AGAINST A SEEMINGLY PASSIVE ENEMY, THIS SORT OF FIGHTING STYLE IS THE BEST WAY TO BREAK THE DEADLOCK!

SWISH

HE TOOK THE INITIATIVE DURING THE BREAK.

HE'S LAUNCHING PRECISE BLOWS AT HIS OPPONENT'S WEAK SPOTS.

HE STRIKES, THEN PULLS BACK, INVITING IN HIS OPPONENT'S BLOWS.

HOW COULD THE STRUGGLE OF SOMEONE ON THE BRINK OF DEFEAT BE SO EFFECTIVE!?

CESTVS' SIMPLE, SUBDUED STRIKES WILL THUS INCREASE IN POWER.

AS HIS ENEMY GETS FRUSTRATED HE'LL RUSH IN...

THIS SET HIM ON THE PATH OF SELF DESTRUCTION.

HIS OPPONENT WANTED TO BELIEVE IN HIS OWN SUPERIORITY, AND BECAME IMPATIENT.

AND IN A MOMENT IT TURNS AROUND.

IT WOULD BE UNTHINKABLE FOR SOMEONE WORSE THAN EVEN A THIRD RATE FIGHTER...

TO NOT NOTICE SUCH A SIMPLE TRAP.

TCH!

A DAMN FOOL.

INTUITIVELY IT CAN BE SAID THAT YOU'RE FIRING YOUR WHOLE BODY'S WEIGHT.

AS YOU STRIKE AT A TARGET YOUR BODY WEIGHT SHOULD FLOW ALONG YOUR CLENCHED FIST.

EXCELLENT BLOWS SEE THE ENTIRE BODY'S STRENGTH FOCUSED INTO THE FIST WITHOUT HESITATION.

THE CORNERSTONE OF A BLOW IS ONE'S OWN BODY WEIGHT.

AND ONE CANNOT SIMPLY TALK ABOUT WINNING OR LOSING BASED UPON BODY SIZE COMPARISONS ALONE.

HOWEVER, IN A FIGHT THINGS ARE ALWAYS RELATIVE.

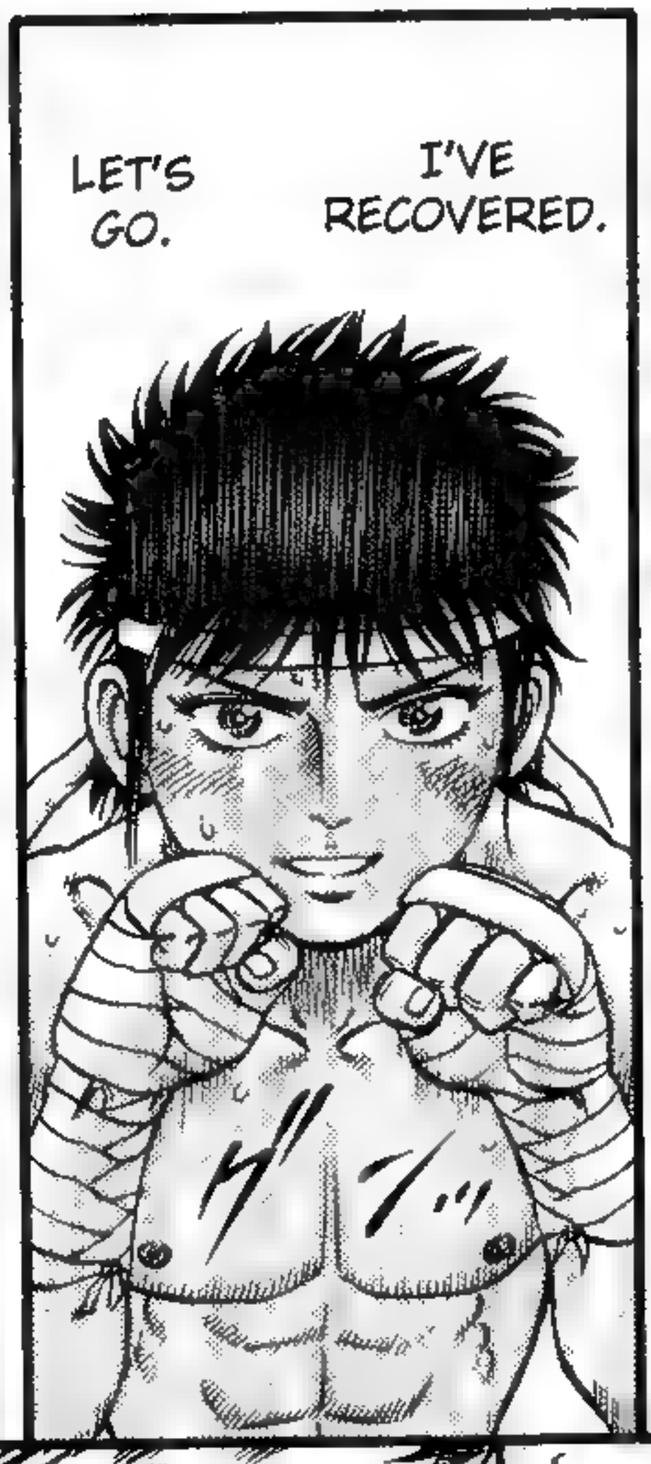
DIFFERENCES IN BODILY MUSCLE CAN BE REFLECTED IN REMARKABLE WAYS.

OF COURSE, THE WEIGHT OF ONE'S STRIKE IS DIRECTLY PROPORTIONAL TO ONE'S BODY WEIGHT.

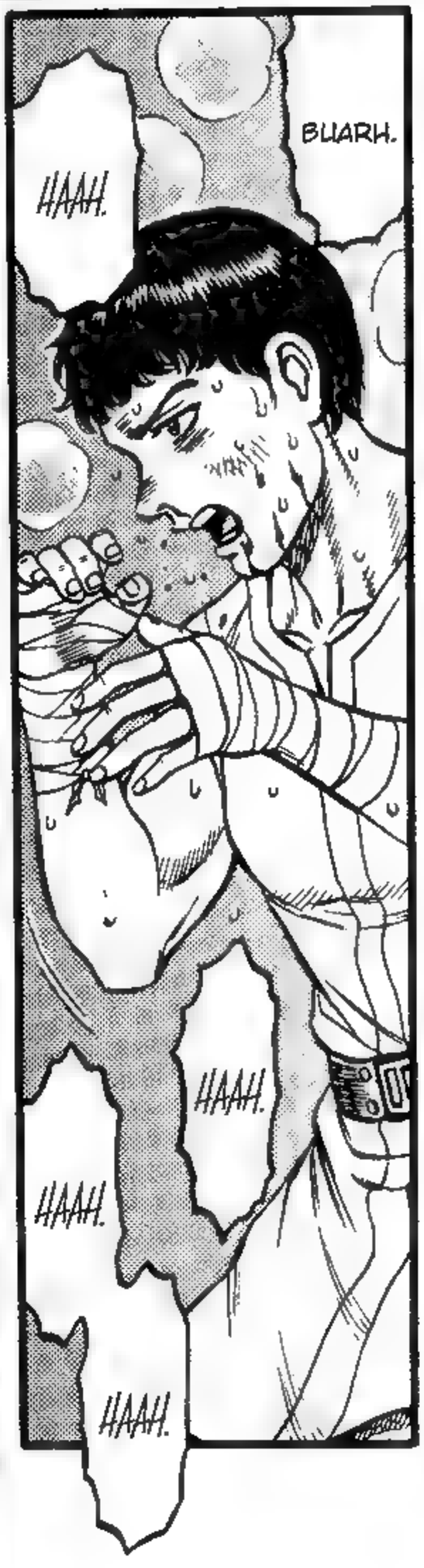
THERE ARE WAYS TO FULLY MAKE USE...

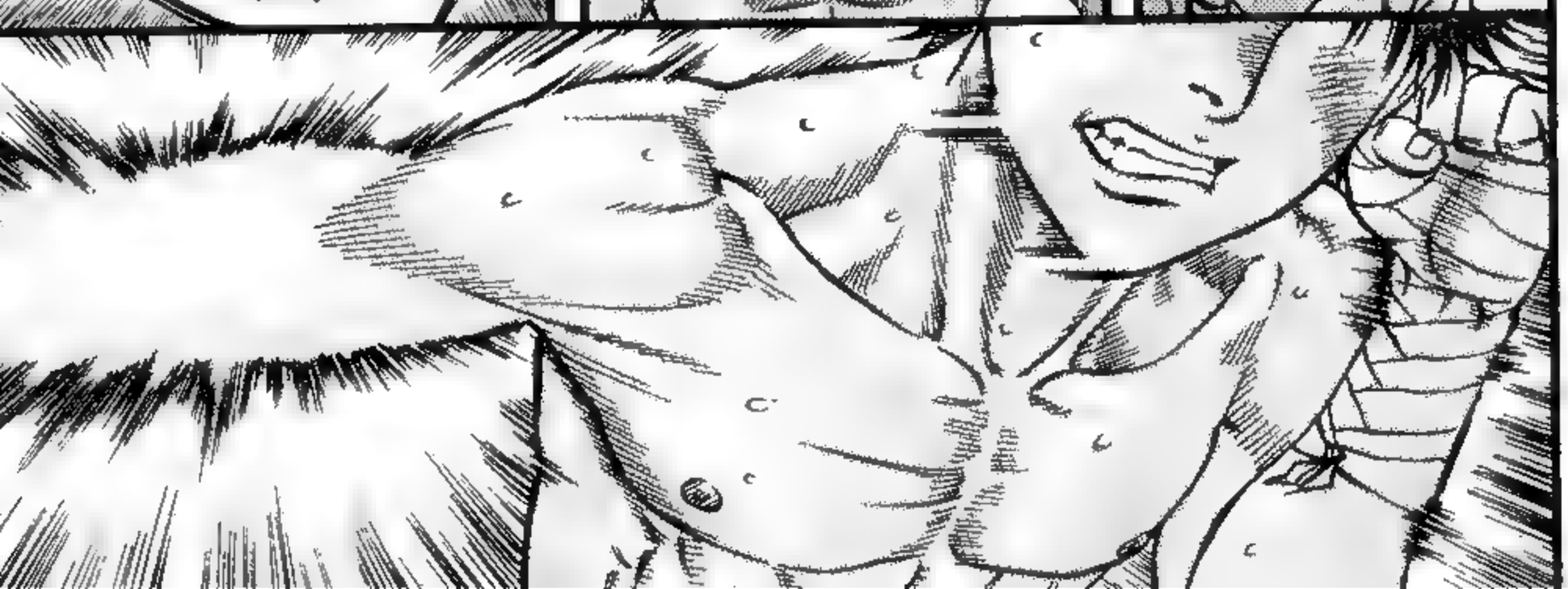
OF THE WEIGHT OF ONE'S OPPONENT.

IF YOU MATCH YOUR BREATHING TO THE INITIAL RESPONSE OF YOUR ENEMY...
THEN BRING ABOUT A HEAD ON COLLISION OF YOUR FISTS...
EVEN A POWERLESS PERSON CAN DOUBLE THE EFFICACY OF THEIR BLOWS!


LET'S GO.
I'VE RECOVERED.

MY BODY'S LIGHT.


BUARH.
HAAH.
HAAH.
HAAH.
HAAH.



THAT'S ENOUGH.

THAT'S FOUR IN A ROW!

HE TURNED IT AROUND!

WOAAAH, HE DID IT!

HE WON...!

HE SURE IS PERISTENT.

SEEMS HE'LL BE ABLE TO PROVIDE SOME AMUSMENT YET.

FIFTH CONTESTANTS, FORWARD!

IT'S THE FINAL MATCH!

FIVE IN A ROW...!

WH... WHAT THE HELL?!

HE CAN'T SERIOUSLY BE LOOKING TO DO IT CAN HE!?

OH...

HAS BECOME A LITTLE MORE MASCULINE.

IT SEEMS LIKE THE BATTLE FACE OF THE YOUNG WOLF...

W...

WELL YOU SEE SIR...

OR ELSE IT WILL BE TAKEN THAT YOU HAVE FORFEITED THE MATCH!

HURRY UP AND COME FORWARD.

THE MATCH CAN CONTINUE!

HH!!

PLEASE WAIT JUST A MOMENT.

HE SHOULD BE UNDER HOUSE ARREST!

WAIT, DINODEIMOS.

RUSKA!

HE'LL BE THE FIFTH FIGHTER!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

COM-MANDER...

WE'LL GRANT THEM A SHORT BREATHER, THEN BEGIN THE MATCH AGAIN.

LET'S SEE HOW THINGS GO.

CAN SOMEONE FULLY EXPLAIN TO ME WHAT'S GOING ON?

I WAS TOLD THERE WAS A FIGHT SO I CAME HERE WITHOUT HEARING ANYTHING.

PLEASE.

WHAT A SELFISH LOT.

RUS-KA...

IT'S ONLY AT THESE TIMES WE'RE FRIENDS ISN'T IT.

SAY...

WON'T YOU SAVE US RUSKA...

WE'RE FRIENDS RIGHT...

ARE A HARD THING TO FIND, VALERIA.

FRIENDS WHO EMBRACE HONOUR...

TO PROTECT HIS WOUNDED COMRADES...

CESTVS FOUGHT BY HIMSELF...

THEY'LL BEG OTHERS FOR HELP.

WHILE MY SO CALLED FRIENDS JUST DEPEND ON THEIR SOCIAL STATUS. THEY FORGET EVEN THEIR OWN PRIDE...

ASK A SECOND TIME...

AND I WON'T BE SO FRIENDLY TO APPROACH.

JUST THIS ONCE.

WELL, ARE YOU GONNA HELP?

RUS-KA...

WHY DID RUSKA HAVE TO COME AT THE END...

WHY MASTER...?

YOU'LL BE FEELING WORN OUT NOW.

JUST FIGHT LIKE YOU HAVE TILL NOW.

HAVE SOME CONFI-DENCE!

THIS IS A BOXING MATCH!

STRETCH-ING OUT YOUR ARMS SHOULD HELP DRAW OUT SOME STRENGTH.

LOOK, I HAVE COMPLETE FAITH IN YOU TODAY!

CESTVS.

IF IT'S A FIST FIGHT THEN YOU'RE STRONGER THAN RUSKA!

HE'S HAVING THIS PRACTICE MATCH WITH A BOXING SLAVE.

THERE WAS NO NEED TO CHANGE HIS CLOTHES...

SWISH

I'M DOING THIS FOR YOU LOT.

IT'S NOT AS THOUGH...

IS MUCH MORE DISHONEST.

MY MOTIVE...

THIS IS ALL OF MY OWN WILL.

CLENCH

I'LL STAND BEFORE YOU CESTVS.

WITHOUT BEING FORCED BY ANYONE...

WITHOUT ANYONE'S BEGGING...

TAKING ON FIVE IN A ROW MEANS HAVING MORE THAN JUST SHEER WILLPOWER.

JUST AS MASTER SAID I'LL HOLD ONTO MY CONFIDENCE!

I BELIEVE THAT THIS IS THE ONLY WAY IN WHICH I CAN SHOW YOU PROPER ETIQUETTE.

IT MAY BE A SELFISH REASON BUT...

YOU MAY BE MY FIFTH OPPONENT, BUT I WILL DEFINITELY WIN!

RUSKA THE PANKRATIAST.

WE'LL SETTLE THIS WITH FULL POWER.

CESTVS THE BOXER.

I'LL TAKE YOU DOWN WITH MY FISTS!

THEY'LL BE FIGHTING FOR THE SECOND TIME.

BUT JUST WHY DO I HAVE SUCH AN OMINOUS FEELING ABOUT THIS?!

THESE TWO MAY WELL HAVE BEEN FATED TO FIGHT MANY TIMES OVER...

THWAT

THWAT

THWAT

THWAT

MY BIG BROTHER'S SO ABHORRENT!

HE PROMISED...

HE PROMISED THAT WE'D SPEND THE WHOLE DAY TOGETHER.

THE LIAR!

LUCRETIA...

学園暗黒伝CESTVS セクタス

I ALSO LIKE THAT SIDE OF RUSKA.

HE COULDN'T NEGLECT HIS TROUBLED FRIENDS.

THOUGH IT'S HIS TENDERNESS WHICH I REALLY LOVE.

HE'S MADE AN IMPRESSIVE RECOVERY.

BUT HIS OPPONENTS HAVE BEEN OF A DIFFERENT CALIBER TILL NOW.

ALL OF A SUDDEN THEY'RE VIOLENTLY EXCHANGING BLOWS!

SO FAST!

THEY'VE THE SAME SPEED!

拳闘暗黒伝 CESTVS
セスタス

CHAPTER XXII: REMATCH

IF I FEEBLY STEP IN I WON'T BE ABLE TO REACH HIM!

HE REALLY DOES HAVE A LONG REACH.

IT'S DANGEROUS TO BE ON THE DEFENSIVE!

HIS ROTATION IS QUICKER THAN BEFORE!

W... WOAH... THOSE TWO...

THEY'RE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT TO US.

SWISH

SWISH

UNTIL NOW THERE'S BEEN AN INCREDIBLE TENSION IN THE AIR.

IT'S A FILLING, PLEASANT DEADMATE FOR FIGHERS.

SO ONCE AGAIN THEY'VE TAKEN SOME RANGE AND ARE GLARING AT EACH OTHER.

SO THEN... WHICH OF THE TWO WILL TAKE THE OFFENSIVE?

THE PAIR SHOULD BOTH HAVE ASSESSED THEIR OPPONENT'S STRENGTHS ENOUGH NOW.

I DON'T FEEL LIKE I'LL LOSE!

THIS IS DIFFERENT TO BEFORE.

IT'S VEXING BEING UNABLE TO KICK WITH MY LEGS...

ONLY USING MY FISTS...

THIS IS DIFFERENT TO HOW I'D LIKE IT...

IT'S MY BATTEFIELD!

YES, IN A BOXING MATCH...

!

THEY'RE LIGHT, BUT DEADLY!

WITH A SHORT PAUSE HE'S LAUNCHED FOUR CONSECUTIVE BLOWS!

CESTVS
IS GOING
AT IT!

HOW MANY BLOWS WAS THAT?!

THEY CAME FLYING AT ME FROM EVERY ANGLE!

I CAN'T DO IT, I CAN'T HANDLE THEM!

WHEN LIMITED TO USING YOUR HANDS ALONE FOR ATTACK AND DEFENCE...

IF ONLY I COULD TIGHTEN MY DEFENCE...!

THEN YOU'RE IN THE BETTER POSITION!

THAT CHILD...

HE'S RAISED HIS ARMS.

RUSKA'S PULLING BACK.

OOOH... OOOH...

YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT RUSKA IS A LIMITLESS GENIUS.

HOWEVER, YOU CAN'T MAKE A MISTAKE AT THE VERY END, CESTVS.

HE'S NOT EVEN PROTECTING HIS STOMACH!

HE'S VERY INEXPERIENCED IN DEFENCE...

FLL

FLL

IF HE TRYS HIS HAND AT A POOR SORT OF COUNTER-ATTACK, THEN I CAN SNIPE AT HIS CHIN!

GURGH!

IF YOU DON'T STOP TO BREATHE...

YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO KEEP USING SUCH HIGH SPEED BLOWS!

HE'LL REACH HIS LIMIT SOON!

STICK WITH IT!

BE SCREAMING OUT!

YOUR LUNGS WILL SOON...

HE PULLED BACK!

BUT NOW IT'S MY TURN!

YOU WERE IN A HURRY TO FINISH THIS, CESTVS!

i
SWISH

OOH!

KUH...

HAH.

HAH.

HAH.

HAH.

YEEEAH!

BUT IT WAS ALL JUST TO HELP SET UP THAT ONE PUNCH!

IT SEEMED AS THOUGH HIS BLOWS WERE BECOMING IMPATIENT.

HE LURED ME IN, AND HAD LEFTOVER ENERGY!

HE GOT ME!

TILL NOW I HAD ACTED AS THOUGH IT WERE SIMPLY A CASE OF PUNCHING THINGS, AND NOTHING MORE.

I WILL APOLOGISE TO YOU CESTVS, I'VE BEEN IMPOLITE.

HOWEVER...

TAKEN ME DOWN WITH THAT PUNCH.

DON'T THINK THAT YOU'VE...

IT WORKED!

COME, CESTVS.

THOUGH IT'LL BE WORRISOME IF I LET HIM RECOVER.

ドムッ

I CAN WIN!

CESTVS IS DOING IT IN ONE BREATH!

GO ON, FIVE IN A ROW!

IT'LL BE TOUGH, BUT I'LL TAKE HIM OUT IN ONE BREATH!

IT'S A FINE SKILL YOU HAVE CESTVS.

IT WAS TOUGH...

BUT I'M USED TO IT NOW...

THAT FORM WHICH YOU'VE PUT SO MUCH WORK INTO...

BUT I CAN SEE IT...

SHALL FALL!

SWISH.

HE WAS HIT BY IT ONLY ONCE...

BUT HE'S PERFECTLY STOLEN IT NOW!

IT'S THE SAME MOVE!

NO WAY!

IT WOULD TAKE AN AVERAGE STUDENT HUNDREDS OF TRIES TO REACH THAT STATE.

BUT IN ONE FLASH OF INSIGHT RUSKA MANAGED TO OBTAIN IT.

ONE CANNOT HELP BUT CALL HIM A GENIUS.

HE IS A TRULY SKILLED MAN WHO SURPASSES ALL REASON AND LOGIC...

I CAN STILL FIGHT.

NOT YET...

WILL GIVE UP!

THERE'S NO WAY I...

SO HE'S THE SAME AS ME...

LOSE IN A BOXING MATCH!

I CANNOT...

WHAT EXACTLY IS THIS...?

ヨロ..

ミ〃ナ〃

ヨロ

ミ〃ナ〃

ヨロ

ヨロ

ズミナ〃

...!

IT'S CLEAR THAT HIS MOVEMENTS HAVE BECOME MORE SLUGGISH...

THINGS SHOULD HAVE TURNED AROUND IN RUSKA'S FAVOUR.

IT'S NOT JUST THAT THOUGH, ADONIS.

HE'D BE UNPREPARED TO TAKE ANYTHING TO THE CHEST...

BUT THE DIFFERENCE IN THE PRECISION OF THEIR BLOWS IS SHOWING.

STRICTLY SPEAKING HE DOES HAVE THE ABILITY TO PUNCH AT VITAL SPOTS.

RUSKA SHOULD IMMEDIATELY START TO SNATCH AWAY AT HIS STAMINA WITH LOW STOMACH BLOWS.

HE'S A GENIUS WHO FREELY MAKES USE OF KICKS, THROWS...

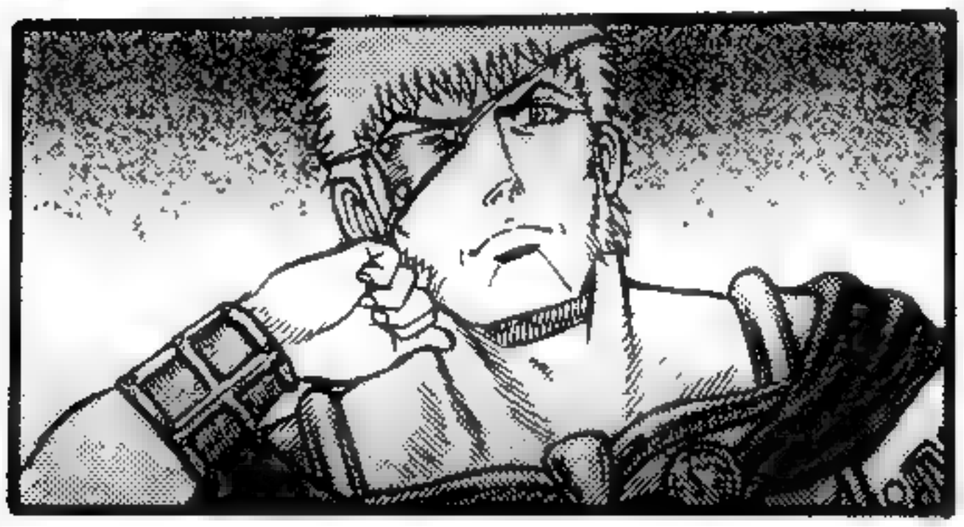
LOCKS AND INSTANT KILL TECHNIQUES.

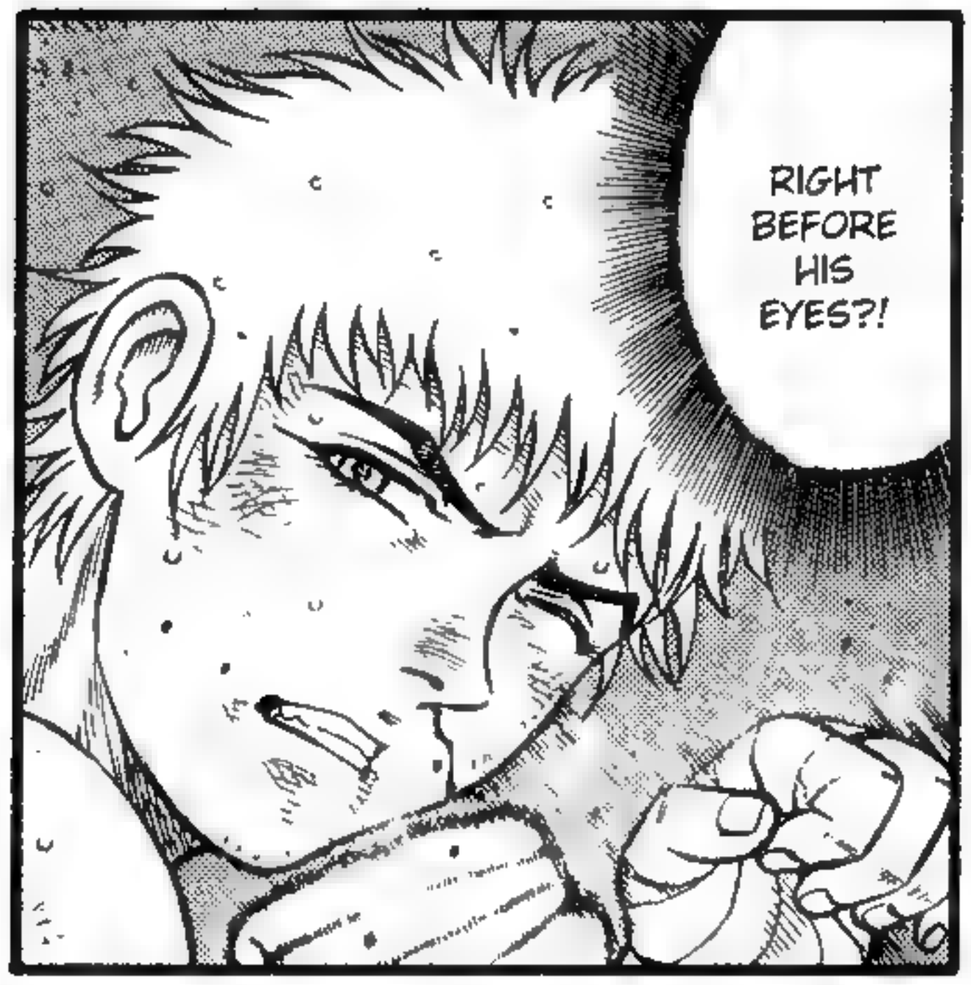
THERE WAS NEVER A NEED FOR RUSKA TO PRACTICE HIS BOXING SKILLS ALONE.

HE IS LIMITED FOR SURE. THERE IS VERY MUCH A GAP BETWEEN THE PAIR IN HOW THEY'VE POLISHED THEIR SKILLS...

HE MADE A NAIVE MISCALCULATION ABOUT THE SHEER STRENGTH OF THE OTHER'S MAIN OCCUPATION.

COMPARED TO CESTVS, WHO SIMPLY BOXES DAY IN DAY OUT, THE DIFFERENCE IS OBVIOUS.





AM I GOING TO LOSE SO SHAMEFULLY IN THIS FIGHT, RIGHT BEFORE THAT MAN?!

I EVEN BEAT RUSKA!

I MADE IT THROUGH FIVE IN A ROW, MASTER!

I... I WON.

THERE'S SOMETHING OFF ABOUT HIM!

SOMEONE STOP RUSKA!

LOSE TO ANY-ONE!

THUMP.

I WON'T BE BEATEN.

THUMP.

I HATE IT...

THUMP.

I... WON'T...

CHAPTER XXII: REMATCH - END

拳闘暗黒伝CESTVS

セスタス

CHAPTER XXIII: THE LION'S ROAR

SWISH!!

A FLYING KICK?!

ARGH!

AH!

S...

STOP IT!

STOP IT, RUSKA!

YOU CAN'T!

?!

GAARGH!

STOP IT!

TEAR!

AAH...

AH!

AAAAAH!

ハァ…ハァ…

OPEN YOUR EYES!

DEPUTY COMMANDER DRAIZEN...?

THAT'S IT... DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?

THIS IS A BOXING MATCH!

STOP THIS RUSKA!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

CEST-VS...

I...!

IS IT BROKEN?!

HEY!

UUH.

SURE.

SORRY, BUT COULD YOU TAKE CARE OF THIS CHILD?

ROX-ANNE.

IT'S OKAY. THE LIGAMENT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE TORN.

WE MADE IT IN TIME.

AGH!

I'M COUNT-ING ON YOU.

ARE YOU ALRIGHT CESTVS?

IS YOUR ARM ALRIGHT?!

BE AT EASE...

WE'LL TREAT YOU WITH THE EQUIPMENT HERE.

COOL YOUR HEAD OFF, THEN MAKE SURE TO REFLECT UPON YOUR SHAME.

...

YOU BROKE THE RULES, AND LOST.

HOW UNLIKE YOU.

IT WAS SHAMEFUL RUSKA.

HMPH.

GET IT DONE QUICKLY!

EEK!

TH... THAT'S FAR TOO HARSH.

YOU SHOULD PACK YOUR BAGS AT ONCE.

AS PER THE CONDITIONS YOU SHALL [redacted] EXPELLED.

YOU ALL FAILED.

...

I AM NOT LENIENT!

NOW GET OUT OF MY SIGHT, BRATS!

...

YES SIR.

YOU SHOULD STILL BE UNDER HOUSE ARREST.

DON'T SAY A THING, JUST GET HOME RUSKA!

MASTER...

WHILE EMBAR-RASSING, IT'S...

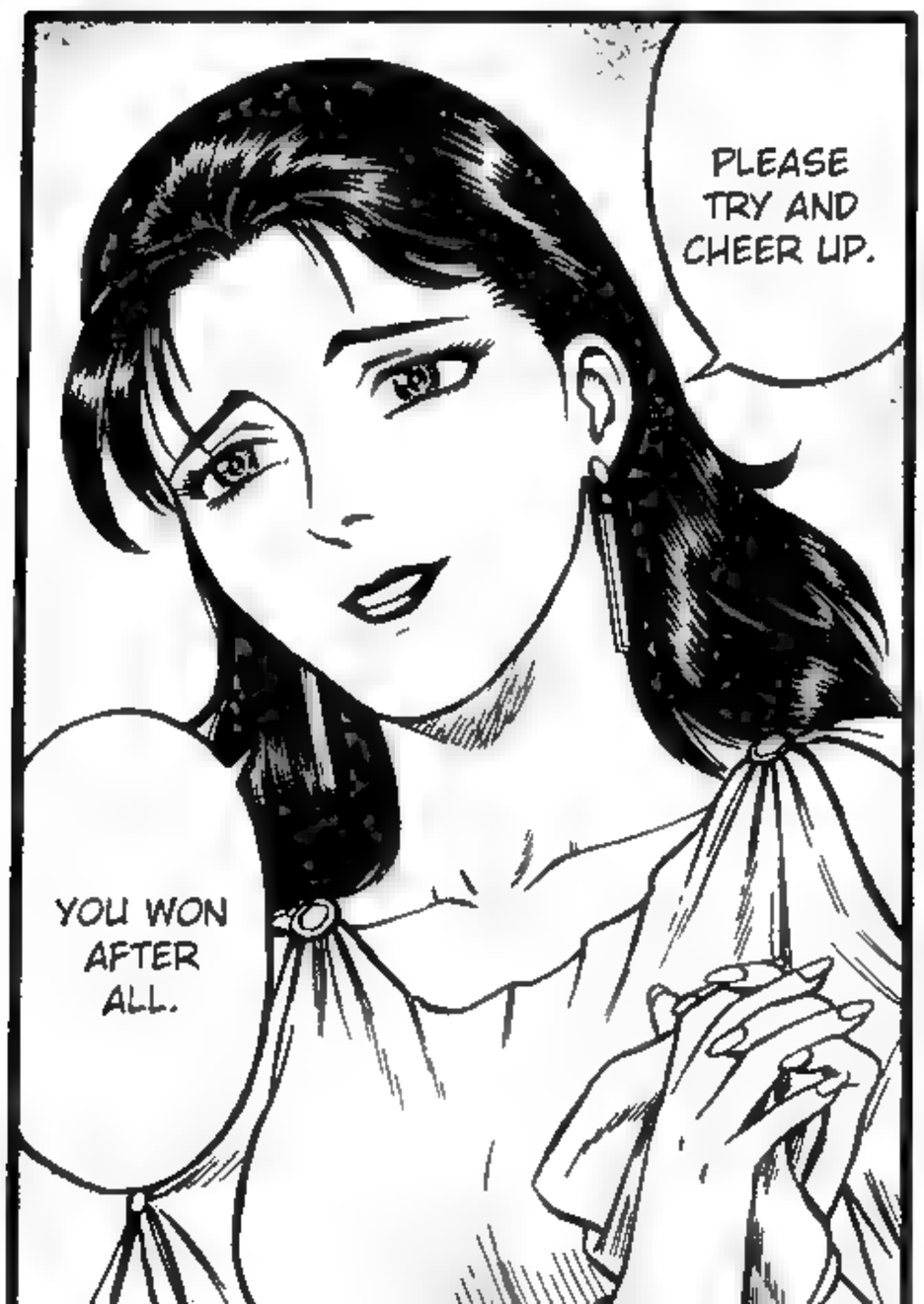
IS THIS THE QUALITY OF OUR RECENT DISCIPLES DINODEIMOS?

IT WOULD SEEM A SCOLDING IS REQUIRED...

AFTER AN HOUR...

HAVE ALL OF THE RECRUITS GATHER AT THE MATCH GROUNDS.

OKAY...
YOU MUSN'T MOVE IT FOR THREE DAYS.
UNDER-STOOD?
MAKE SURE TO CHANGE THE COMPRESS AFTER HALF A DAY.


PLEASE TRY AND CHEER UP.
YOU WON AFTER ALL.

I TOLD YOU NOT TO MOVE IT.

ARRGH!

H...

"H"

HOW CAN...

AH.

HOW IN THE WORLD CAN YOU SAY...

THAT IT WAS MY WIN?

THUD

THUD

IT WAS A MOMENT WHERE I SHOULD HAVE DONE SOMETHING...

BUT I WAS IN NO STATE TO FIGHT AT ALL.

ズキ..

ズキ..

ズキ..

I WAS JUST AFRAID, I COULDN'T DO A THING!

WHEN RUSKA LAUNCHED HIS FLYING KICK AT ME...

MY HEAD BLANKED OUT, I LOST ALL THOUGHT...

TELL ME MASTER...

I COULDN'T EVEN LAST A MINUTE AGAINST RUSKA'S TRUE ATTACKS.

IN THE END I WASN'T ABLE TO TAKE DOWN RUSKA.

...

FORGET ABOUT RUSKA'S VIOLENT INFRACTION, YOU BEAT HIM.

BUT IN BOXING IT WAS YOUR COMPLETE WIN.

ARE MY BOXING SKILLS...

JUST NO MATCH FOR RUSKA'S INTEGRATED HAND TO HAND COMBAT SKILLS?

AS A BOXER, CAN I ONLY WIN AGAINST OTHER BOXERS?

IT'S OBVIOUS!

IN A NO HOLDS BARRED MATCH YOU'D BE AT A DISADVANTAGE FROM THE START!

BEFORE TALKING ABOUT PROS AND CONS...

IF IT'S LIKE THIS, THEN I'LL TELL YOU CLEARLY...

IT SHOULD FIRST BE MENTIONED THAT ALL PURPOSE FIGHTING SKILLS ARE FAR TOO DIFFERENT.

TELL ME, MASTER!

...

NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES YOU FOUGHT AGAINST RUSKA'S TRUE POWER AS YOU ARE NOW, YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO WIN!

...

I WON'T BE ABLE TO FIGHT HIM WILL I!

BUT...

HOWEVER...

IF YOU WERE TO THINK IT OVER, YOU'D SEE IT'S NO PROBLEM.

TO...

FIGHT HIM...

I WON'T BE ABLE TO FIGHT HIM!

DEMITORIUS...

DON'T CRY.

ｸﾞｽ...

WHATEVER YOU DO PUPILS, PAY CLOSE ATTENTION AND LEARN WHAT YOU CAN!

OUR COMMANDER SHALL HERE SHOW YOU AN EXHIBITION MATCH!

!

COMMA-NDER...

!!!

GATHERED RECUITS!

FINE WORK.

THEY'RE ALL CAREFULLY CHOSEN MASTERS.

DOES HE INTEND TO FIGHT THREE AT ONCE?!

ARMED GLADIA-TORS!

コチ コチ..

コチ コチ..

COME.

!

SWOOSH

ゲボーッ

ゴ

NUGAAAH!

GARGH!

FUU OOO

?!

A..

AAH!

GUAAARGH!

H'' H''..

DON'T CRY OUT!

JUST, COME AT ME!

CHAPTER XXIII: THE LION'S ROAR - END

拳闘暗黒伝CESTVS

セスタス

CHAPTER XXIV: THE WHEEL OF THE GODS

KEEI!

THUWT.

THUWT.

THUWT.

スッ…

ニコッ…

KEEAAA

AARGH!

BAASH!

WAAH!

TO WIN COMPLETELY BARE HANDED! THAT...

AGAINST ANY NUMBER OF WEAPONS, AND ANY NUMBER OF FOES...

IS THE MISSION OF THE PANKRATOS LEGION!

WAAA

WE HAVE NO NEED OF SOLDIERS WHO LACK RESOLVE!

ANYONE WHO IS HESISTANT SHOULD LEAVE HERE AT ONCE!

WE ARE NO ORDINARY GROUP OF FIGHTERS.

THERE WON'T BE ANY BRATS LEFT FOR US TO TAKE ALONG.

THE MEDICINE SEEMS MOST EFFECTIVE...

WATCH WHAT YOU SAY, SORLEON

HE'S LIKE A LION WITH THE FORM OF A MAN.

THUMP

THUMP

HE'S A MONSTER...

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

HE'S NOT HUMAN...

HOW DID MASTER FIGHT SUCH A MONSTER?!

ゴゴゴゴ

A DAY AFTER THE STORM.

ゴゴゴゴ

ANY SENSE OF EXCITMENT FROM WINNING FIVE FIGHTS IN A ROW HAD VANISHED WITHOUT TRACE.

THE INSANE STRENGTH OF DEMITORIUS AND HIS SON HAD CUT DEEPLY INTO THEIR HEARTS, AND CHILLED THEIR VERY SOULS.

ゴゴゴゴ

WERE SOMEONE LIKE THAT TO BECOME OUR ENEMY, THEN...

WHAT THE HELL WOULD WE EVEN DO...?!

MM.

THESE BRATS HAVE COME TO THE END OF THEIR LITTLE OUTING.

HEY, YOU HEADING BACK?

ゴトゴトゴト

INDEED.

GOOD GRIEF. IF THEY COME BACK THEN IT JUST LEADS TO MORE WORK.

ゴトゴト..

ゴトゴト..

...

WEREN'T THEY SOME OF THE ADULTS WHO HAD ESCAPED FIVE DAYS AGO?

WITH THIS THEY'VE ALL BEEN CAUGHT THEN...!

WE CAUGHT ALL OF THE ESCAPEES.

HEHEHE, TAKE A LOOK.

HOW WAS THE RESULT OVER THERE?

WHAT A LOT OF FOOLS.

THEY DIDN'T EVEN HAVE...

ANYWHERE TO ESCAPE TO.

WILL WE EVEN LAST FOR?!

H...

HOW LONG...

I CAN'T TAKE IT...

I'M SICK AND TIRED OF THIS.

HOW LONG WILL THIS LAST.

WE'VE BEEN LUCKY TO MAKE IT TO TODAY...

BUT WHO KNOWS WHAT TOMORROW WILL BRING.

FROM THE BEGINNING WE COULD NEVER MAKE IT TO 100 WINS...

WE'LL END UP LIKE THAT.

MAYBE ONE DAY...

RIGHT NOW WE HAVE TO DO WHAT WE CAN!

IT'S NO USE JUST WORRYING LIKE BEFORE!

NO CHOICE BUT TO FIGHT!

THAT'S WHY WE HAVE...

EH?

CHINO.

YOU CAN TALK LIKE THAT COS YOU'RE TALENTED!

THAT'S WHY YOU'RE SO CONFIDENT!

DON'T TRY AND PREACH TO US!

EVEN CESTVS WAS TAKEN DOWN IN THE END.

AAH, I KNOW!

IT'S JUST...

DON'T SAY SUCH CRAP.

CESTVS STOOD UP FOR US AND FOUGHT ALL BY HIMSELF!

FOR... US IT'S...

JUST WHAT CAN DO WE?

ENOUGH, SHUT UP.

QUIET ALREADY, JUST STOP IT.

ISN'T IT JUST TIME TO DESPAIR?!

FOR THOSE LIKE US IT'S USELESS RIGHT?!

...

JUST WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?!

MY FACE LOOKS BAD RIGHT.

WHAT HAPPENED BROTHER?!

THERE'S NO WAY YOU COULD LOSE BROTHER!

THAT'S A LIE RIGHT?!

I LOST...

MY MATCH.

I'M A LITTLE TIRED THOUGH.

IT'S NOT A LIE.

COULD YOU LET ME REST.

LUCRETIA.

IS VALERIA STILL HERE?

EH?

SHE WENT HOME.

SHE WENT TO MEET HER FATHER...

チャ 110

チャ 110

AH THAT'S ANNOYING.

ふう...

I WANTED HER TO STAY A BIT LONGER...

WHAT'S WRONG LUCRETIA?

IT'S...

WHY ARE YOU CRING?

IT'S JUST...

I KNOW, I'M SORRY...

I'LL STAY HERE AT HOME FOR A WHILE.

MM...

THAT'S RIGHT, I NEED TO APOLOGIZE TO CESTVS TOO.

TAKE A GOOD LOOK!

THIS IS THE FATE OF DESERTERS!

UNDERSTAND THAT, BRATS!

AS LONG AS YOU LIVE, YOU MUST BE COMPLETELY SUBMISSIVE TO MASTER VALENS.

YOU NO GOOD BOXING SLAVES CANNOT BE PERMITTED TO REBEL!

WRONG.

THIS IS TRULY...

YOU ARE MASTER VALENS' PROPERTY UNTIL YOU SPILL YOUR LAST DROP OF BLOOD!

THIS HIDEOUS TREATMENT...

FOR FORGIVENESS?!

HOW MANY SLAVES WILL IT TAKE...

PLEASE STOP...

THEY ARE HUMANS TOO!

FOR WHAT REASON ARE YOU CARRYING OUT SUCH CRUEL ACTS?!

WHY...

LADY VALERIA!

PLEASE, TELL ME WHY THIS INSTANT!

!

A LADY?

EH...?

REALLY...

NO WAY!

ELSE I'LL HAVE TO TALK TO FATHER ABOUT THIS!

ERM...

I AM, BUT...?

?

?

Y... YES.

RIGHT?

YOU'RE CESTVS...

ヌ…!

ヌ…!

FATHER!

RUSKA...?

#117

I KNEW IT AT ONCE.

YOU'RE JUST LIKE RUSKA SAID.

VALERIA!

A... AT ANY RATE YOU CAN'T STAY IN THIS FILTHY PLACE...

WE'LL TALK IN YOUR ROOM!

...!

WE'VE AN IMPORTANT MATTER TO DISCUSS, FATHER.

HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU TO NOT COME HERE, YET...!

WITH THE INEVITABLE PASSING OF TIME, NUMEROUS EVENTS FIT TOGETHER PURELY BY CHANCE, AS THOUGH THEY WERE COGS.

VALENS' DAUGHTER, IS RUSKA'S...?

THAT WHICH IS KNOWN AS FATE, THE WHEEL OF THE GODS, HAD BEEN SET IN MOTION.

WITH THE APPEARANCE OF VALERIA, CESTVS' FUTURE HAD BEGUN TO GREATLY SWAY...

帝国の領土について

歴史上で世界帝国の覇者を夢見た人物は数知れない。しかし、長期に渡る支配を成し得た成功例は稀である。覇業のスピード記録から見ればアレキサンダー大王の東方遠征は確かに出色ではあるが、アレキサンドロス帝国を引き継ぐ後継者はいなかった。一代限りで終結した異彩を放つ「儚(はかな)い偉業」と言えるだろう。

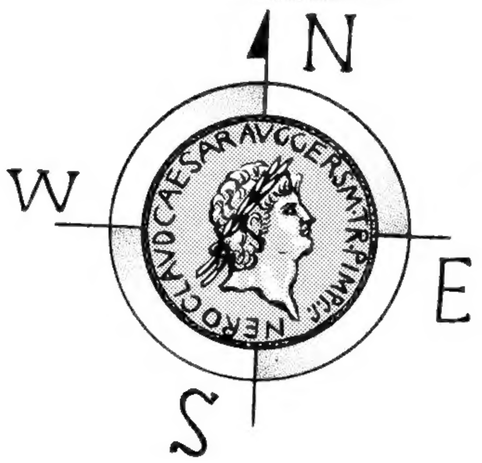
また、単純に支配面積から見れば、モンゴル帝国・元が最大であるが、栄華を誇ったのはせいぜい一世紀ほどの期間であり、ローマ帝国には遠く及ばない。

ローマこそが史上最も成功した最初で最後の世界帝国なのである。地図を見て頂ければ、ネロ帝の時代にはすでに地中海を囲む諸国全域を支配していた事がお解りになるだろう。ローマが別名「地中海帝国」と呼ばれる所以がここにある。ネロ以後もローマは支配地を拡大し、紀元96～192までのアントニヌス朝時代に帝国の領土は最大となる。軍事力での征服よりその後の統治の方が遙かに難しい。広域に渡る領土の支配となれば、よほどシステムがしっかりしていなければ維持できるはずがない。多少の変動はあったにせよ、約1000年の長期間を致命的な破綻をきたさずに繁栄し続けたのだから、まさしく驚異である！

ローマ帝国　版図

紀元一世紀頃

北　海
スカンディアエ
ヒベルニア
ブリタニア
ゲルマニア
下ゲルマニア
上ゲルマニア
サルマティア
大西洋
ガリア
ノリクム
パンノニア
ダキア
カスピ海
黒　海
アルメニア
モエシア
トラキア
ポントゥス
イタリア
ローマ
コルシカ
マケドニア
ヒスパニア
バレアレス
サルデイニア
アジア
メソポタミア
キリキア
シリア
シチリア
アカイア
(ギリシア)
ロードス
キプロス
クレタ
マウレタニア
ヌミディア
カルタゴ
地　中　海
アラビア
アフリカ
キュレナイカ
エジプト
紅
海



属州については
皇帝直轄の地域と
元老院が支配するものとで
区分されていたが
ここでは省略させて頂きます

ローマ人は支配した国の優れた文化を積極的に吸収する勤勉な一面を持つ民族であった。ローマ文化の大半はギリシアから学んだものであり、優秀な治水工事、土木建築技術もローマ以前にイタリアで繁栄したエトルリア文明などから受け継いだものであった。良いものは柔軟に取り入れて、支配地域へ還元するといった文化的なフィードバックもローマ帝国では行われていたようだ。

また、皇族の名と領土との関係についても興味深い。ネロの祖父にあたるローマの名将ゲルマニクス（2巻付録参照）その名は「ゲルマニアを制する者」という意味を持つ。名前通りゲルマニクスは妻子を伴いゲルマニアへ遠征している。後の皇帝カリグラは幼少時代をゲルマニアの駐屯地で過したのだ。クラウディウス帝の長男ブリタニクスも同様の意味を持ち、これは父親のブリタニア征服を記念してつけられた名前なのである。